Research Group "Social Cognition and Emotion"

Group Leader:
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, PhD

This research group investigates the neural underpinnings of social interactions in the human brain. Our research combines the central nervous system, endocrine system, and individual behavior in the context of social interactions. Using functional MRI, pharmacological techniques, endocrine measurements, and epigenetics, we aim to elucidate the interactions between these domains in order to understand the biological basis of individual social decision making and social interactions.

Current experiments focus on how hormones modulate the neural representation of others' mental or affective states. Oxytocin, for example, has been shown to enhance facial emotion recognition and to modulate visual attention to social cues. In a number of ongoing experiments, we aim to understand the neural bases of these cognitive and behavioral effects of the neuropeptide oxytocin.

The research group "Social Cognition and Emotion" is affiliated with the Laboratory for Biological and Personality Psychology at the Department of Psychology. For further information, please refer to the following
sites
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Selected Key Publications

Domes, G., Heinrichs, M., Michel, A., Berger, C., & Herpertz, S. C. (2007). Oxytocin improves "mind-reading" in humans. Biological Psychiatry, 61, 731-733.

Heinrichs, M., von Dawans, B. & Domes, G. (2009). Oxytocin, vasopressin, and human social behavior. Frontiers in Neuroendocrinology, 30, 548-557.

Domes, G., Lischke, A., Berger, C., Grossmann, A., Hauenstein, K., Heinrichs, M., et al. (2010). Effects of intranasal oxytocin on emotional face processing in women. Psychoneuroendocrinology, 35, 83-93.

Domes, G., Schulze, L., Bottger, M., Grossmann, A., Hauenstein, K., Wirtz, P. H., et al. (2010). The neural correlates of sex differences in emotional reactivity and emotion regulation. Human Brain Mapping, 31, 758-769.

Schulze, L., Domes, G., Kruger, A., Berger, C., Fleischer, M., Prehn, K., et al. (2011). Neuronal correlates of cognitive reappraisal in borderline patients with affective instability. Biological Psychiatry, 69, 564-573

Schulze, L., Lischke, A., Greif, J., Herpertz, S. C., Heinrichs, M., & Domes, G. (2011). Oxytocin increases recognition for masked emotional faces. Psychoneuroendocrinology, doi: 10.1016/j.psyneuen.2011.03.011.

Meyer-Lindenberg, A., Domes, G., Kirsch., P. & Heinrichs, M. (2011). Oxytocin and vasopressin in the human brain: social neuropeptides for translational medicine. Nature Reviews Neuroscience, 12, 524-538.