SRNT
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Please register for an Upcoming Webinar sponsored by
SRNT's Basic Science and Genetics Networks:

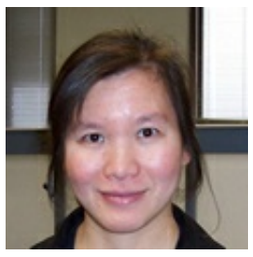
Genetic and Pre-clinical Findings on OPRM1 in Drug Abuse

February 5, 2016 at11:00 AM US Eastern

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Space is limited so click here to reserve your webinar seat.

Join Dr. Nancy Saccone and Dr. Jill Turner as they host a webinar entitled "Genetic and Pre-clinical Findings on OPRM1 in Drug Abuse." The human μ-opioid receptor gene (OPRM1) has been widely studied for its association in a variety of drug addiction and pain sensitivity phenotypes; however, the extent of these adaptations and the mechanisms underlying these associations remain elusive. In this webinar, Drs. Saccone and Turner are presenting data from human and mouse genetic studies examining how alterations in this gene impact drug dependence phenotypes. First, Dr. Saccone will present evidence from a large collaborative genetic meta-analysis that demonstrates association between the OPRM1 A118G polymorphism and substance dependence risk across multiple European-ancestry cohorts. Then, Dr. Turner will present data pertaining to the OPRM1 A118G polymorphism using the A112G SNP mouse model and how this polymorphism alters brain function, corresponding with changes in murine models of drug dependence. The speakers will then synergize their findings to better put into perspective the functional ramifications of these variants in drug dependence using evidence from both mouse and man.



Dr. Nancy Saccone is an Associate Professor of Genetics in the Department of Genetics at Washington University. She is a mathematician who trained with Dr. John Rice at Washington University in statistical genetics and psychiatric genetics. Her research areas include 1) identifying and characterizing genetic influences on nicotine dependence, addiction, and related traits, and developing and 2) evaluating analytic methods to detect and interpret genetic loci involved in disease. She is heavily involved in collaborative research, leading and participating in large-scale, collaborative genetic meta-analyses of a variety of traits.

Dr. Jill Turner began her training in the neuropharmacology lab of Dr. Ken Kellar at Georgetown University, where she was the first to identify complex heteromeric nicotinic receptors in the brain and evaluate their functional consequences. Dr. Turner continued her nicotine research as a postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Julie Blendy at the University of Pennsylvania, examining possible mechanisms for smoking relapse using genomics, animal behavior, and electrophysiology. Currently, Dr. Turner runs her own lab at the University of South Carolina with a focus on the induction of a molecule called Neuregulin 3 following chronic nicotine treatment and its role in nicotine dependence. Collaborative work from her lab and her collaborators, Drs. Jaakko Kaprio and Anu Loukola (University of Helsinki), have identified additional genes in the NRG3/ERBB4 regulatory cascade that influence nicotine dependence phenotypes, including ERBB4, BACE1, PSEN1, PSEN2, and NCSTN.