

external seminar



Biometra seminars

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AULA C, LITA Segrate

MYELIN: UNWRAPPING ITS SECRETS IN DEVELOPMENT AND DISEASE

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Myelin is a specialized, lipid rich wrapping of axons from membranes of oligodendrocytes in the central nervous system and of Schwann cells in the peripheral nervous system. Myelin is essential for the function of the nervous system, by speeding and coordinating conduction of axon potentials in neural circuits and by supporting axons metabolically.

My laboratory is interested in all aspects of myelination, from the development of myelin-forming cells, to the mechanisms that lead to abnormalities in myelin diseases, such as inherited peripheral neuropathies (Charcot Marie Tooth Disease) and leukodystrophies. Starting from these observation, I also aim at identifying potential therapies to correct these abnormalities, and to promote repair after demyelination in peripheral neuropathies and Multiple Sclerosis. In my talk I will briefly describe my contribution to the discovery of novel mechanisms of Schwann cell development and current perspectives and project ongoing in my laboratory. I will then focus on recent work that uncovered novel interactions between myelin-forming cells and macrophages in Globoid Cell Leukodystrophy , a lysosomal storage disorder due to mutations in the GALC gene, and the implications of this discovery for the treatment on this devastating disease.



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