Pain and Itch Mechanisms

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Dr. Dong's research focuses on understanding the cellular and molecular mechanisms of itch and pain. His lab identified members of Mrg GPCR family function as itch receptors by directly sensing various itchy substances. Furthermore, they found Mrg-expressing primary sensory neurons in the DRG are itch-specific neurons. In addition, his lab has developed an imaging technique which allows them to monitor DRG neuron activity in live animals. Using this powerful technique, they revealed novel pain mechanisms.

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