Sex Differences in the Neurobiology of Chronic Pain and Endogenous Opioid Analgesia

Pharmacologic interventions are needed to replace addictive opioid medications for the treatment of patients with intractable pain. Two of our five-year projects are studying the contribution of endogenous neuropeptide receptor signaling to the suppression of inflammatory and neuropathic pain. Other projects seek to understand the pharmacology of pain in type 2 diabetes, multiple sclerosis, and spinal cord injury. This talk will review our unpublished pre-clinical evidence for sex differences in opioid receptor constitutive activity (ORc), and discuss sphingosine-1-phosphate-receptor-1 and PPARy receptors in the spinal dorsal horn as promising targets for the treatment of central neuropathic pain.

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