ELSC-ICNC Seminar: Sagiv Shifman

May 9, 2013

On the topic of: "Autism: a complex biological story"

ELSC & ICNC cordially invite you

to the lecture given by:

Sagiv Shifman
Dept. of Genetics, The Alexander Silberman Inst. of Life Sciences, HUJI

On the topic of:

"Autism: a complex biological story"

The lecture will be held on Thursday, May 9, 2013
at 17:00, at ELSC-ICNC: Silverman Bldg., 3rd Wing, 6th Floor, Edmond J. Safra Campus

Light refreshments at 16:45

Abstract:

Autism is the most severe extreme of a group of neurodevelopmental disorders referred to as autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). ASD is a heterogeneous genetic syndrome characterized by social deficits, language impairments and repetitive behaviors. Though extensively characterized clinically, autism remains a mystery. It is known to have a strong genetic basis, but little is known about the specific genetic factors that contribute to its risk. Recent studies suggest that ASD is influenced by many different genes. This Genetic heterogeneity of ASD poses a considerable challenge to traditional methods of gene discovery and treatment search, since almost every child on the spectrum has a different genetic cause. The overarching working hypothesis behind our work is that the heterogeneous genetic causes of ASD damage the activity of a small number of central neurodevelopmental pathways. Our results so far show that ASD is influenced by both common and rare genetic variants, but that these converge on the same neuronal pathways. We identified a specific group of genes that are more likely to be disrupted by different type of mutations. Many of the risk genes were found to be regulators ? they regulate the activity of other genes that are involved in brain development and function.
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