Molecular and Cellular Determinants of Pain and Itch Sensation

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We recently discovered for the first the mechanism by which pain and itch is encoded by peripheral neurons. Using combined electrophysiology recordings and ion imaging together with the behavioral experiments, we demonstrated that although pain and itch stimuli are detected by similar transduced channels - TRPV1 and TRPA1, these channels are expressed by functionally distinct pain and itch neurons thus the encoding of pain and itch is achieved already at the level of the peripheral fibers.
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