ELSC seminar: Yoram Ben-Shaul Thu. 17.3, 17:00

March 17, 2016

On the topic of: Encoding socially relevant information by the mouse brain system - the basics and a little beyond.

ELSC cordially invite you to the lecture given by:

**Yoram Ben-Shaul**
Hadassah medical school.

On the topic of:
"Encoding socially relevant information by the mouse brain system - the basics and a little beyond"

The lecture will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2016
at 17:00, at ELSC: Silverman Bldg., 3rd Wing, 6th Floor, Edmond J. Safra Campus
Light refreshments at 16:45

**Abstract:**
Correct interpretation of chemical cues from other organisms is essential for social animals that rely on chemosensation. In my talk, I will describe the general challenges that this task poses, and present our thoughts on how the olfactory system overcomes them. First, I will show how the vomeronasal system (I will give a brief introduction of this system) can derive behaviorally important information from multiple sensory cues that are emitted by other mice. Specifically, simple measures of activity of neurons in the accessory olfactory bulb (which is the first brain relay of the vomeronasal system), can be used to derive the information. Beyond these "basics", are even more interesting questions: How does information processing change as a function of an animal's own physiological state or experience? What is so special about the vomeronasal system that distinguishes it from the main olfactory system? What are the relevant metrics of neuronal activity within the vomeronasal system? Having described the "basics" in the initial part of my talk, I will then tell you about our attempts to address these more complex questions, and the
kinds of answers that we are beginning to obtain.

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