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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Department of Cellular and Physiological Sciences

****Special Seminar****



Cheryl M. McCormick, PhD

Professor in the Dept of Psychology and Neuroscience, Centre for Neuroscience, Canada Research Chair in Behavioral Neuroscience, Brock University

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Center for Brain Health/CBH Room 3402

Hosted by Dr. Joanne Weinberg

GONADAL HORMONES and the DIFFERENTIAL HYPOTHALAMIC-PITUITARY-ADRENAL (HPA) RESPONSES to STRESSORS IN ADOLESCENT and ADULT RATS

To most stressors, adolescent rats show elevated HPA responses compared with adult rats. One hypothesis for the age difference is immature gonadal function in adolescents, given that testosterone tends to dampen HPA responses to stressors. Nevertheless, most of the research has investigated pre-pubertal ages (typically rats 28 – 35 days of age) relative to adult rats (> 60 days of age). I will describe our research that has included post-pubertal adolescent rats (45 days of age) that shows that there is gonadal regulation of aspects of the HPA axis in both pre- and post-pubertal adolescents, but that at 45 days of age, the role of testosterone differs significantly from that in adulthood. I will review other research indicating that post-pubertal adolescents differ qualitatively, and non-linearly, from both pre-pubertal and post-pubertal adolescents, and speculate as to why this period of life involves such different functioning than adulthood.

For more information please contact Dr. Weinberg <joanne.weinberg@ubc.ca>