



NEUROSCIENCE CONFERENCE

SERIES



MATHIEU ROY

Associate Professor, dept. of Psychology, McGill University
Canada Research Chair (tier 2) on brain imaging of pain

NO PAIN NO GAIN: how does the brain decide what is the right price to pay to avoid pain?

Pain signals the presence of an urgent threat to our corporal integrity; it calls for our complete attention and commands immediate action. However, pain also marks an error in the long chain of decisions that ultimately exposed out to potential injury. Pain therefore compels us to reassess our future action plans. The effects of pain thus resonate far beyond the immediate painful experience: anticipation of future pain based on past painful experiences influences our decisions, mood, and pain sensitivity.

In the first part of his presentation, Prof. Roy will examine how our brains learn to predict and avoid pain. However, avoiding pain often comes at cost, and it is extremely important for us to assess the right price to pay to avoid pain. Too much avoidance makes us miss on potentially beneficial opportunities; too little avoidance exposes us to unnecessary pain. In the second part of his presentation, Prof. Roy will examine how our brains compare the value of pain with competing rewards so as to make decisions that minimize pain and maximize gains.



Tuesday 21st March 2023

Time: 12:00h



Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

Campus Clinic | Aula 11



Hosted by: Marina Lopez-Sola

