CICLO CONFERÊNCIAS 19/20 ISPA - INSTITUTO UNIVERSITÁRIO

BEHAVIORAL AND NEURAL CONSEQUENCES OF ODOR WARNING SIGNALS



Behavioral and neuroimaging studies have demonstrated that throughout evolution, visual signals that has been associated with threats enjoy automated and prioritized processing. Based on this, we hypothesized an ability to detect threats also via our nose. In this talk, I will provide an overview of findings from our recent project on olfactory threat signals originating from various sources --the body odors from strangers and sick individuals as well as the odor of blood. Our findings demonstrate that, much like other animals, humans are able to extract odor information that alert us about the presence of specific threats and that this information affect both our neural processing of sensory stimuli as well as the perception of our surrounding.

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