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Clinical Specialty: Autism spectrum disorders

#### Research Interests:

Our laboratory is interested in the neurobiological and genetic mechanisms of social behavior development, particularly the early development of social affiliative and aggressive behaviors. We use the mouse as a model organism. Our current projects include the following: 1) studies of the neural circuitry that mediates social behaviors, focusing on the amygdala, using immunohistochemical studies of immediate early genes expression and markers of glutamatergic and GABAergic neurons in mouse brain; 2) studies of amygdala development and social behavior phenotypes in mice with mutations of autism or schizophrenia susceptibility genes, and pharmacologic studies aimed at rescuing social behaviors in these mouse models; 3) studies of gene-environment interactions in shaping amygdala and social behavior development.

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