

IGSN - SYMPOSIUM

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Novel Approaches for Behavioral Assessment of Rodents

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How should we model complex psychiatric symptoms in rodents?

Psychiatric disorders represent a significant health burden, affecting millions of people worldwide. They have a profoundly negative impact on quality of life and are associated with increased levels of mortality. As such, the effective treatment of psychiatric disorders represents a clear and urgent clinical need. The ability to model these disorders in rodents provides the opportunity to understand the underlying neurobiology driving symptoms and identify novel treatment targets. To achieve meaningful results, behavioural tests must be translationally relevant to human symptoms. In this talk, I will discuss the principles of effective translation in rodent behavioural tasks. I will discuss how the Research Domain Criteria (RDoC) may be utilised to investigate specific behavioural deficits across species. I will provide examples of both well established and novel behavioural paradigms used to understand specific symptoms and novel treatment effects. Finally, I will highlight the use of ethological, species-specific behaviour as a particularly useful tool in behavioural testing. Overall this talk aims to highlight the importance of translational validity in rodent behavioural studies, and to demonstrate how thoughtful task design can bridge the gap between preclinical models and clinical outcomes.

Host:

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