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OTHER PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS



Metabolic Disease and Obesity



Neuroscience

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Our group aims to decipher fundamental mechanisms that control brain developmental and function. *C. elegans* has a small and well-defined nervous system that we use as a model to study neuronal development and function at single-neuron resolution. Sophisticated molecular genetic techniques, ease of observation and detailed anatomical, genetic and molecular information make the worm an excellent experimental model.

Research Projects

- 1. microRNA regulation of stem cell development
- 2. Constructing of the brain using the TGF-beta pathway
- 3. CRISPRCas9 genome engineering to model oncogenic mutations
- 4. microRNA regulation of brain development



Image of head and tail ganglia of Caenorhabditis elegans marked with green fluorescent protein

Image of the entire Caenorhabditis elegans nervous system marked with red fluorescent protein and expression of a neuropeptide marked with green fluorescent protein. Overlapping cells are yellow

Selected significant publications:

- Torpe N and Pocock R. 2014. Regulation of Axonal Midline Guidance by Prolyl 4-hydroxylation in C. elegans. *The Journal* of Neuroscience. 34(49):16348-57.
- Gramstrup Petersen J, Rojo Romanos T, Juozaityte V, Redo Riveiro A, Hums I, Zimmer M and **Pocock R**. 2013. EGL-13/ SoxD Specifies Distinct O2 and CO2 Sensory Neuron Fates in Caenorhabditis elegans. *PLoS Genetics* 9(5).
- 3. Pedersen M, Snieckute G, Kagias K, Nehammer C, Multhaupt H, Couchman J and **Pocock R**. 2013. An Epidermal MicroRNA Regulates Neuronal Migration via Control of the Cellular Glycosylation State. *Science*. 341, 1404.
- Pocock R, and Hobert O. 2010. Hypoxia activates a latent circuit for processing gustatory information in C. elegans. Nature Neuroscience. 13, 610-614.
- Pocock R and Hobert O. 2008. Oxygen levels affect axon guidance and neuronal migration in Caenorhabditis elegans. Nature Neuroscience. 11, 894-900.