



2014 BCS Colloquium Series

“Control of adult neurogenesis by programmed cell death in the mammalian brain”

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The presence of neural stem cells (NSCs) and the production of new neurons in the adult brain have received great attention from scientists and public, because of implications in the brain plasticity and potential use for currently incurable brain diseases. The adult neurogenesis is controlled at multiple levels, including proliferation, differentiation, and programmed cell death (PCD). Among these, PCD is the last, and the most prominent process to regulate the final number of mature neurons integrated into the neural circuits. Using the mouse model which cannot execute neuronal apoptosis, my research team has found the compensatory responses of nervous system development, and the impairments of age-dependent hippocampal functions. In this small talk, I will focus on the extent, mechanism, and biological significance of the PCD for the control of adult neurogenesis in the mammalian brain.

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