

Karen Bales ABC Plenary 2020

Title: Basic and Translational Neuroscience of Social Bonds

Abstract: Social behavior is critical to most mammals, and especially to primates. My research program investigates the neural basis for pair bonding in a monogamous primate, the titi monkey (*Plecturocebus cupreus*) and a monogamous rodent, the prairie vole (*Microtus ochrogaster*). We also study the oxytocin and vasopressin systems underlying these pair bonds, as well as the effects of clinical manipulations of oxytocin. In this talk, I'll present some of our data on how titi monkeys respond neurally and behaviorally to their pair mates and strangers. I'll also present comparative data on the long-term responses of voles, mice, and titi monkeys to chronic intranasal oxytocin exposure, which has been proposed as a treatment for autism.