Neurodevelopmental, Gestational, Lactational and Maternal Immune Stimulation Animal Model for Schizophrenia (Ramot)

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Ina Weiner, T.A.U Tel Aviv University, Social Sciences, The School oh Psychological Sciences

Fields of Interest

Pharmacology of schizophrenia, animal models of psychopathology, neurodevelopmental model of schizophrenia.
Prof. Weiner's lab has launched and developed the latent inhibition model of schizophrenia which mimics loss of normal attentional control in this disorder, with a focus on the pharmacology of latent inhibition as a basis for the search for novel drugs. In recent years, the laboratory has focused on a neurodevelopmental model of schizophrenia based on a well known risk factor, namely, maternal infection. In addition to long term schizophrenia-like behavioral abnormalities observed in the adult offspring, brain imaging is used to unravel schizophrenia-like brain structural abnormalities that develop in these offspring.

Main interest concerns the possibility of prevention of "schizophrenia' in the model.
Recent findings reveal that the emergence of both behavioral and brain structural abnormalities in adulthood can be prevented by pharmacological treatments given during an asymptomatic period of adolescence.

Prof. Ina Weiner
Tel Aviv 69978, Israel
Tel: +972-3-6408993
Fax: +972-3-6409547
Email: weiner@post.tau.ac.il

Contact for more information:
Liat Hadad ✉, VP BD, +972.54.5555061

Ramot at Tel Aviv University Ltd. P.O. Box 39296, Tel Aviv 61392 ISRAEL
Phone: +972-3-6406608
Fax: +972-3-6406675