

PIONEERS IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH SEMINAR

Presented by the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute and co-sponsored by institute's Addiction Recovery Research Center and Center for Health Behaviors Research



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Integrating Internal and External Nutrient Sensing and Use

Optimal decision-making in a changing environment requires evidence accumulation. Typically, this evidence is amassed from the external environment. Within this framework, unconditioned rewards are encapsulated within the outcome of an action; for example, the consumption of food and the oral sensation simultaneously evoked. Accordingly, conventional learning models typically view rewards as static, measurable external entities, such as the quantity of juice given to an animal or the points allocated to a human in an experiment. This view overlooks the intricate and dynamic nature of biological processes and recent advances in the interoceptive sciences. In this talk, evidence will be presented from work in humans linking energy sensing and utilization with reinforcement learning, decision-making, and active valuation of external proxy reward signals. Dr. Small will also discuss the independence of these subliminal operations from conscious sensations such as liking and pleasure.

FRIDAY, MAR. 21, at 11 a.m.

Room G101 A/B, 4 Riverside Circle
Watch live via Zoom at <https://FralinBioMed.info/PBR-Join>.



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