

Weaning-induced alterations on neuropeptidergic populations of the rat hypothalamus

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Statements

Belonging to the Ph.D. thesis:

Weaning-induced alterations on neuropeptidergic populations of the rat hypothalamus

By **Giovanne B. Diniz**

- 1** Weaning is an important process, as it allows the mother to reset her physiological parameters back to pre-gestational levels.
- 2** Despite being described over twenty years ago, the melanin-concentrating hormone system has not been completely described from an anatomical standpoint.
- 3** The neuropeptide melanin-concentrating hormone acts as a baseline maintainer, promoting behavioral and physiological changes that prevent the organism from reaching dangerous levels.
- 4** The number of pups in a litter can affect the number of melanin-concentrating hormone-producing neurons that are detected in the hypothalamus during weaning.
- 5** The tactile stimulus from the pups promotes an increase in the number of neurons producing another neuropeptide, orexin, and this increase is reversed during weaning.
- 6** The tactile stimulus from the pups during weaning is fundamental for the return of the dam's brain to its pre-gestational structure and functioning.
- 7** There are few things as beautiful and unique as the intricate network of personal connections that people build during the course of their life.
- 8** A complete understanding of the brain and its underlying processes represents the final frontier of human knowledge.
- 9** The current idea that the brain works as a computer performing Boolean operations is merely a reflection of our current technology, and it will be supplanted as other fields advance.
- 10** "Gentleman, instead of promising to satisfy your curiosity about the anatomy of the brain, I intend here to make the sincere, public confession that this is a subject on which I know nothing at all"
- Opening words of the "*Discours sur l'anatomie du cerveau*", delivered by Nicolaus Steno in 1669.