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Fruit fly as a schizophrenia model

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Schizophrenia is characterized by a range of symptoms, both physical, psychological and cognitive. The etiology of the disease remains elusive. It does not have a characteristic marker and varies greatly among patients.

There are many animal models of schizophrenia, some aimed at verifying the impact of DNA mutations on disease occurrence, disrupted neurotransmission or neurodevelopment –majority of them are rodent models, but there are also studies conducted on other species, among them - on the *Drosophila melanogaster* commonly known as the fruit fly.

Among the advantages of the fruit fly as a model organism, one can enumerate, a fully sequenced genome, numerous innovative genetic engineering methods dedicated to it, small size and the ability to collect data from many individuals. All of this facilitates research on genes and proteins that correlate with schizophrenia in humans.

I will discuss research on the molecular basics of schizophrenia, involving genes associated with the development of schizophrenia in humans, as well as proteins. I will also debate the advantages and disadvantages of this model and whether it is worth using in studying such complex diseases.

Field

Biosciences

Length

Poster

Author: NOWALIŃSKA, Karolina

Presenter: NOWALIŃSKA, Karolina