

## Treatment of social anxiety disorders using brain hormones

CSIC and the Miguel Hernández University of Elche have developed a treatment for social disorders, such as anxiety, extreme introversion or avoidant personality disorder, that is based on the use of brain hormones that have been detected to regulate behavioral responses related with socialization.

Industrial partners from the pharmaceutical industry are being sought to collaborate through a patent licence agreement for the development of treatments based on this technology.

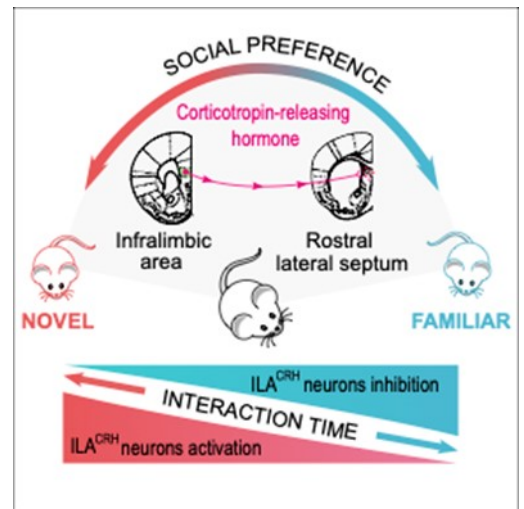
### An offer for Patent Licensing

#### Hormones that improve social interactions

Social relations are a key factor in individual development and well-being. There are many biological mechanisms that regulate interactions, but sometimes such mechanisms are altered and generate an undesirable response, thus negatively affecting life of those who suffer them.

People with social anxiety disorders generally tend to prefer interactions with familiar people in detriment of the establishment of new social bonds. However, our researchers have observed that, through the use of hormones, the socialization preferences can be altered, facilitating the interaction with unfamiliar individuals and therefore helping to foster the establishment of new social links and relations. This response may be of special interest for the treatment of disorders related with apathy, phobia or anxiety that some people may develop in unfamiliar social environments.

This discovery may be the initial step for the development of novel hormone treatments to such disorders, while avoiding the use of drugs that sometimes may cause severe unwanted side effects.



Modulation of interaction preferences through the use of brain hormones

#### Main innovations and advantages

- The treatment is based in an endogenous hormone (naturally generated by the human brain), and therefore avoids the use of synthetic drugs.
- There have been no adverse side effects detected with the early tests performed with this treatment.
- The treatment can be specifically adapted to each patient regarding dose and frequency, being useful both for acute and chronic cases.
- It arises as a promising method to treat social anxiety disorders, such as separation anxiety disorder (SAD) or avoidant personality disorder (APD), among others.

#### Patent Status

Priority patent application filed suitable for international extension

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