Aversive state processing in insular cortical circuits

Triggering behavioral adaptation upon the detection of adversity is crucial for survival. The insular cortex has been suggested to process emotions and homeostatic signals, but how the insular cortex detects internal states and mediates behavioral adaptation is poorly understood. In my talk I will present recent data from my lab uncovering a role for the posterior insula in processing aversive sensory stimuli, emotional and bodily states, and in exerting prominent top-down modulation of ongoing behaviors in mice.

I will further present a novel technique we developed to track mouse facial expressions and use them to correlate neuronal activity to subjective experiences. Together, our work aims at a detailed understanding of how insular circuits contribute to the processing and regulation of emotion.

Location: Paul Ehrlich-Hörsaal, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Campus Mitte Virchowweg 4, next to CCO
Date: Thursday, May 9th, 5 p.m.
Host: James Poulet