Circadian regulation of wake and sleep



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NAS Sleep Workshop Nov 2, 2022

The **Outline**

- Progress on Process C has outpaced insights into Process S
- The brain functions as a network of circadian cells
- Overlapping maps of neurotransmitter- and neuropeptideconnectivity coordinate daily rhythms in the brain and body

• COI: None

A two-process model for sleep regulation



AA Borbély, S Daan, A Wirz-Justice, T. DeBoer (2016) Journal of Sleep. Cited by 1124

Circadian Pacemakers:

- Common
- Molecular oscillators with a period close to 24 h
- Temperature compensated
- Light entrained
- Drivers of daily rhythms in physiology and behavior





Modified from Mick Hastings

Many cell types are intrinsically circadian



Neurons Glia Hepatocytes Myometrium Chrondrocytes

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Webb et al. (2009) PMID 19805326

How do circadian cells regulate the brain and body?



The SCN is a central circadian pacemaker



Ralph et al. (1990) Science

SCN lesions and sleep

C: Hypocretin-1

12 16 20 0 4 8 12 16 20

Zeitgeber time (h)

4 8 12 16 20 0 4 8 12 16 20 0

8 12 16 20 0 4 8 12 16 20

12 16 20 0 4 8 12 16 20

8 12 16 20 0 4 8 12 16 20 0

12 16 20 0 4 8 12 16 20

Clock time (h)

Clock time (h)

Zeitgeber time (h)

Circadian time (h)

Circadian time (h)



Decreased daily rhythms in:

- NREM
- REM
- Siesta
- Glucocorticoid
- Melatonin
- Hypocretin1

Species-specific change in sleep/day:

- no change in rat and mouse
- increased in squirrel monkey

Zhang et al. (2004) Sleep

Mapping circadian circuits to sleep



Rods, Cones, Melanopsin cells

Within the SCN

From the SCN

SCN projections to wake and sleep promoting centers



Sanchez et al. (2022) Sem in Cell and Dev Bio

SCN cell types and signals differ in their roles in sleep







Roles for clock genes in other cell types for daily rhythms



Sleep disorders result from circadian disruptions

- GABA and VIP set circadian sync in the SCN
- Clock genes and projections set daily phase and amplitude in brain and body



Thanks!



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Funding: NIGMS, NINDS, NIBMS, NCI, MoD, Hope Center

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Next steps

- Are all cells and cell types part of a circadian network?
- Is the clock insensitive to sleep need?
- Should we be following tracts or diffusible signals?
- Should we be treating the clock, sleep, and/or the disease?

