

Lateral Habenula Contributions to Memory and Decisions

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Intact memory functions of the hippocampus or prefrontal cortex are not sufficient to predict with complete accuracy the behavioral choices that are made. Decades of research have shown that one's internal (i.e. motivational) state importantly regulates memory-driven decisions to act or not to act. The neural mechanisms by which internal state information regulates the behavioral implementation of hippocampal-prefrontal based memory and decisions, however, remains unclear. The lateral habenula will be discussed as providing a critical link between hippocampal-prefrontal systems and actions taken by animals.