

The role of reward system in social motivation deficits in ASDs

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Social behavior is the interaction of two or more individual of the same species and encompass a robust behavioral continuum that includes both affiliative and antagonistic contacts between conspecifics. Sensory inputs, internal states and environmental contexts are factors that strongly regulate social behavioural decisions, but how the brain processes this diverse information and makes these choices is unknown. I will discuss the role of mesolimbic dopamine system in social motivation and I will highlight potential dysfunctions in the Dopamine system underlying social deficits in Autism Spectrum Disorders.