



# KASTURBA MEDICAL COLLEGE MANIPAL

(A constituent unit of MAHE, Manipal)

## RESEARCH TALK SERIES 2022

### The relaxin-3 / RXFP3 system: a valid therapeutic target to treat depression?



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Dr Craig Smith is Head of the Neuroscience of Stress and Mental Health laboratory, and Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology and Therapeutics, at the School of Medicine, Deakin University, Geelong, Australia. Before joining Deakin 5 years ago, Dr Smith completed his PhD followed by 7 years as a postdoctoral researcher at the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, Melbourne. His research focuses on the relaxin-3 neurotransmitter, and its G protein-coupled receptor, RXFP3 (Relaxin Family Peptide 3 Receptor). Dr Smith is a world leader in the relaxin-3/RXFP3 field, and his research has significantly contributed to the growing evidence that RXFP3 is a promising potential therapeutic target to treat depression. For example, Dr Smith was the first to map the anatomical distribution of relaxin-3 and RXFP3 within the mouse brain. He was also the first to characterise the behavioural consequences of pharmacological and genetic inhibition of RXFP3 in mice, which both reduce arousal. This work has attracted considerable external grant funding, including a recent collaborative NHMRC Project Grant worth \$689,187 AUD from 2019 – 2021. Dr Smith has authored over 40 peer reviewed publications, and continues to use a range of pre-clinical anatomical and behavioural approaches to investigate the biology and therapeutic potential of the relaxin-3/RXFP3 system.



MS TEAM  
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