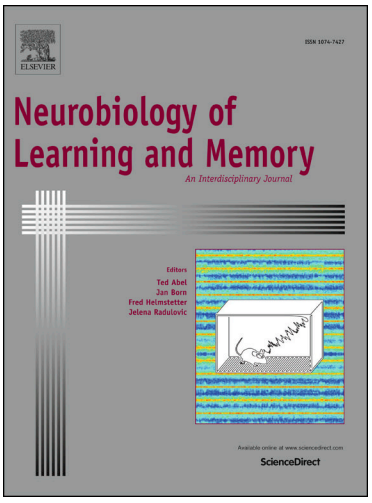

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Are the Persistent Effects of "Gate Control" Stimulation on Nociception a Form of Generalization of Habituation that is Endocannabinoid-Dependent?

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Highlights

- Repetitive stimulation of non-nociceptive afferents is known to produce a persistent decrease in nociceptive signaling.
- In this study, evidence was found that supported the hypothesis that the effect of repetitive non-nociceptive stimulation on subsequent responses to nociceptive stimuli represented a form of generalization or transfer of habituation.
- Endocannabinoid signaling was required generalized habituation in the nociceptive stimulus-response pathway, but not for "direct" habituation in the non-nociceptive pathway.
- A single session of habituation training produced a longer-lasting generalized habituation memory then did multiple sessions of training.

ABSTRACT

Repetitive activation of non-nociceptive afferents is known to attenuate nociceptive signaling. However, the functional details of how this modulatory process operates are not understood and this has been a barrier in using such stimuli to effectively treat chronic pain. The present study