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Title: Persistent inflammatory pain alters sexually-motivated behavior in male rats

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**Highlights**

- Uninjured male rats show robust and sustained preference for urine scent marking near a pro-œstrus female urine spot.
- Persistent inflammatory pain produces a delayed reduction of scent marking behavior in male rats.
- Pre-injury scent marking behavior is predictive of post-injury stress-related outcomes and sexually-motivated behavior, but not pain.
- Heterogeneity in persistent pain-evoked outcomes in rodents reflects heterogeneity of outcomes in humans with chronic pain.
- Our findings suggest that sexually-motivated behavior in rodents may be an effective translational tool for predicting health and quality-of-life outcomes in persistent pain states.

**Abstract**

Urine from pro-œstrus female rodents evokes increased levels of sexually-motivated behaviors in males, including sniffing and scent marking of the urine spot as well as activation of brain reward

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