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Molecular endocrinology of female reproductive behavior.

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Abstract. Epigenetic methodologies address mechanisms of estrogenic effects on hypothalamic and preoptic neurons, as well as mechanisms by which stress can interfere with female reproductive behaviors. Recent results are reviewed.

1. Introduction.

The relative simplicity of lordosis behavior by female laboratory animals, a behavior essential for reproduction and coordinated in time with the ovulatory surge of luteinizing hormone, offers the rare opportunity to discover a complete set of molecular endocrine and neurophysiological mechanisms for a

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