Abstract

**Using genetically modified rodents to understand the link between SIDS and brain serotonin**

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is the leading cause of mortality from 1 month to 1 year of age in the U.S., and the biological mechanisms that lead to SIDS are still unclear. However, data from brainstem tissues from SIDS cases indicate several defects in the brainstem serotonin (5-HT) system may contribute. I will discuss how we are using genetically engineered mice and rats with experimental mutations in the 5-HT system to investigate its role in physiological control systems that control breathing and body temperature.