

Brain peptide research may lead to promising new treatments for mental illnesses

September 7 2016

Recent research points to the importance of a molecule called relaxin-3 in the brain, with effects on various processes and behaviors such as mood, stress, and cognition. Because these are often aberrant in mental illnesses, investigators are studying the potential of relaxin-3-based interventions to treat depression, anxiety, and other conditions.

A new review looks at where such research stands and what additional studies are necessary.

"There is a need for new and better drugs for mental illnesses. An accumulation of recent research points to potential that relaxin-3 and its receptor RXFP3 may be a new target for treatment of these disorders," said Dr. Gavin Dawe, senior author of the *British Journal of Pharmacology* review.

"Developments in stapled peptide technology-whereby peptides are chemically stabilized by crosslinking with small molecules-are now opening prospects for selectively targeting RXFP3 to develop a new class of drugs for [mental illnesses](#)."

More information: Jigna Rajesh Kumar et al. Relaxin' the brain: a case for targeting the nucleus incertus network and relaxin-3/RXFP3 system in neuropsychiatric disorders, *British Journal of Pharmacology* (2016). [DOI: 10.1111/bph.13564](https://doi.org/10.1111/bph.13564)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Brain peptide research may lead to promising new treatments for mental illnesses (2016, September 7) retrieved 8 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-09-brain-peptide-treatments-mental-illnesses.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.