

Course Announcement  
The Hypothalamus: The Brain's Master Homeostat.  
Training Program in Neuroscience  
ME:440.726

January 11<sup>th</sup>- March 1<sup>st</sup>  
BRB 382  
3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter  
M, F 3:30-5:00

Instructors:  
Seth Blackshaw, Neuroscience, JHMI  
Samer Hattar, Biology, JHU

Maximum enrollment: 15

Prerequisites: Neuro-Cog I+II or permission of instructors.

Course description: The hypothalamus is the central regulator of a broad range of homeostatic behaviors essential to survival, and plays a key role in controlling emotional and appetitive behaviors. This course offers an overview of both historical and recent work on this vital brain region. Topics covered will include the evolution and development of the hypothalamus, control of circadian rhythms and sleep, regulation of hunger and body temperature, as well as hypothalamic regulation of sexual, defensive, and affiliative behavior. Each class will include 10-15 minutes of introductory lecture, followed by in-class discussion of 2 relevant recent papers. The final grade will be based on class participation and one 6-page review article or mock grant proposal on any related topic. An optional lecture on good grant writing practices will also be offered.