

Campus notes

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Researcher at FSU finds new link

FSU College of Medicine researcher Mohamed Kabbaj published his latest social-relationship discoveries in “Nature Neuroscience” following a comprehensive study of brain behavior and partner preference.

Kabbaj studied chemical changes, or “epigenetic mechanisms,” that loosen chromatin structure in the prairie vole — a small mammal that typically forms lifelong bonds after a 16- to 24hour mating period. Prairie voles, which protect one another from intruders and share parental duties, are often used as models to study social bonding, attachment and love in other animals, including humans. Kabbaj and his team were able to produce the same change even though the voles had not mated.

The study was supported by grants from the National Institute of Mental Health.