BIOENGINEERING SEMINAR

“The Positive Impact of Placebo Imaging Research on Clinical Care”

Tuesday – February 24, 2015 – 11:00 a.m.
EPFL – room SV1717a

Prof. Randy L. Gollub
Athinoula A. Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging, Charlestown, MA
and
Laboratory for Neuroimaging Applications to Pain, Acupuncture and Placebo Research, Division of Psychiatric Neuroscience Research & Neurotherapeutics, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA (USA)

host: Prof. Dimitri Van De Ville

Abstract

By removing doubt that self-healing is associated with measurable changes in patterns of regional brain activity, neuroimaging shifted the study of placebo effects from taboo to trendy. Most importantly, neuroimaging helped move investigations of the placebo effect into the scientific framework of testable, hypothesis driven mechanistic research. The robust findings from imaging and other domains have raised awareness in both patients and clinicians about the salubrious effect of the patient - treater relationship and encounter that are inter-dependent with treatment modality. In this talk, the most exciting results in placebo research will be presented including the neuroimaging research studies performed by the speaker and her team investigating modulation of pain by placebo and acupuncture treatments.

See Bioengineering seminar calendar at http://bioengineering.epfl.ch/seminars