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NATURE HOT TOPIC

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Competing neural inputs feed anxiety



The bed nucleus of the stria terminalis (BNST), a brain area involved in fear and anxiety, also projects into brain areas with contrasting roles, including some involved in the reward response. Two papers now dissect out the functional properties of various subregions of projections of BNST in mice.

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Diverging neural pathways assemble a behavioural state from separable features in anxiety (Letter p219, doi: 10.1038/nature12018)

Distinct extended amygdala circuits for divergent motivational states (Letter p224, doi: 10.1038/nature12041)

Anxiety is the sum of its parts (News & Views p174, doi: 10.1038/nature12087)

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