

Polo Didattico e Scientifico Vallisneri

Viale Giuseppe Colombo 3 (accesso pedonale) Via Ugo Bassi 58/B, Padova

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Seminario

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Synaptic vesicle fusion: A biophysics perspective

Vesicle fusion is required for neurotransmitter release at the synapse. Membrane fusion is mediated by the protein nanomachine composed of SNAREs, Ca2+-sensor synaptotagmin, and other auxiliary proteins. EPR and single molecule techniques are used to investigate the structure and the function of SNAREs and regulatory proteins. In particular, research is focused on identifying the major intermediates on the membrane fusion pathway and in reproducing millisecod membrane fusion, a feature unique to synaptic vesicle fusion. I will discuss the current status of our understanding of synaptic membrane fusion with a biophysics perspective.