Epigenetic fingerprints: Psychobiological insights into human emotional connections

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Recent advances in behavioral epigenetics suggest that the epigenome is highly sensitive to environmental exposures which may ultimately lead to the long-term programming of emotional regulation development and emotional health from infancy to adulthood. This talk will focus on the role played by epigenetic mechanisms in the socio-emotional development of preterm babies providing evidence from a longitudinal prospective study from birth to preschool age. Behavioral, neuroimaging and relational findings will be presented, showing how early adverse experiences can leave long-lasting epigenetic fingerprints in the phenotype of human individuals.