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A View of Pain from the Inside

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The principal focus of the laboratory is investigation of the mechanisms of enhanced sensitivity to pain (i.e., hypersensitivity). Because pain arising from internal organs is least well understood among sources of pain, recent research has addressed mechanisms of visceral pain and visceral hypersensitivity, focusing on urinary bladder, colon, prostate and pancreas. Experimental approaches include: in vitro single sensory nerve fiber recording, whole cell patch clamp recording from identified (labeled) sensory neurons, and procedures for quantification or localization of peptides, G protein-coupled receptors, immediate early genes and ion channels that play an important role in pain and hypersensitivity.