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Linking Auditory Neurophysiology to Perception

Dr Jan Schnupp

University of Oxford
Dept. of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics

ABSTRACT OF THE TALK

When we listen to environmental sounds, animal noises or speech stimuli, then our ears initially capture sound waves from the world around us, but then extract "meaning", i.e recognize the sound sources or distinguish their properties. Hearing can therefore be thought of as a 2 stage process, involving first an encoding of the physical parameters of sound waves, and then a mapping of this neural code for the acoustical properties of sound onto 'meaning'. The second part of this process is still very poorly understood. In this talk I shall present some recent and ongoing work from our laboratory with which we hope to shed light on these processes.