Impromptu-Seminar

Venue: Medical University Vienna, Center for Physiology and Pharmacology,

Institute of Pharmacology, Waehringerstrasse 13a, 1090 Vienna,

"**Leseraum**", Hochparterre

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Tuesday 03.12.2013 14:00 s.t. **Luigi Zecca** (Host: H. Sitte)

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"Neuromelanins accumulate in aging brain and can play either protective or toxic role depending on cellular context"

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Abstract: Neuromelanins are complex polymeric compounds occurring in many brain regions and especially in catecholaminergic ones. They are contained in a special type of lysosomal organelle and accumulate during aging. They have a melanic, lipid and modified protein component. Neuromelanins play a protective role by binding toxic metals and other toxins to form stable complexes and their synthesis is also a protective phenomenon. However when neuromelanins are released by degenerating neurons in Parkinson's disease they activate microglia which can induce neurodegeneration.