



## UniversitätsKlinikum Heidelberg

The **Institute of Medical Psychology** (Beate Ditzen, Ph.D.), University Hospital Heidelberg and **CHS Research Group Neuropeptides** (Valery Grinevich, Ph.D.), German Cancer Research Center, are pleased to invite all collaborators, colleagues and the interested public to an exciting guest lecture supported by the Interdisciplinary Center for Neuroscience, IZN, Heidelberg:



### C. Sue Carter, Ph.D.: **THE HEALING POWER OF LOVE – AN OXYTOCIN HYPOTHESIS**

Wednesday May, 25<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at Lecture Hall HS2  
Im Neuenheimer Feld 306, Heidelberg

This presentation will discuss the hormonal and neural mechanisms that support the beneficial and healing effects of loving relationships. Love has profound effects on our mental and physical state, pervading every aspect of our lives. The neuropeptide oxytocin and related molecules are at the heart of the biological substrates for love and the consequences of the presence or absence of relationships. Embedded in this system are ancient hormones and receptors capable of regulating the capacity for social cognition, bonding, social support, growth and restoration. Oxytocin regulates functions of the autonomic nervous system and has direct antioxidant and anti-inflammatory consequences for tissues throughout the body. The oxytocin system is epigenetically influenced by early experience. Therefore the capacity of oxytocin to regulate these systems helps to explain the pervasive adaptive consequences of social experiences for emotional and physical health. Knowledge of the pathways through which oxytocin and related molecules act offers a new perspective on the healing power of love and other forms of positive social interactions.

Dr. Sue Carter is currently Director of the Kinsey Institute and Rudy Professor of Biology at Indiana University, a position she accepted in 2014. Prior, she also has held several professorships in Psychiatry, Biology and Psychology. Carter is a neurobiologist, known for her research on the biology of social bonding and the development of the prairie vole as a model for studying the behavioral and physiological actions of peptide hormones.

### Speaker:

C. Sue Carter, PhD,  
Director, The Kinsey Institute  
Rudy Professor, Department of Biology  
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47401 USA

### Location:

Heidelberg University, Lecture Hall HS2  
Im Neuenheimer Feld 306, D-69115 Heidelberg, Germany