Reverse-engineering salivary epithelial-neuron cell interactions
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Causes
- Sjögrens Syndrome
- Head & neck radiation
- Drug side effects

Results
- Dental Caries
- Gingivitis/Periodontitis
- Oral Lesions
- Dysphagia
- Dysgeusia
- Problems chewing, speech, etc.

Hyposalivation/Xerostomia

Treatments
- Saliva substitutes/Oral lubricant
- Secretory agonists
- Experimental treatments

In vitro model: neurons self-organize around epithelial cells, replicating native gland organization

Nuclei b-3-tub ZO-1

Functional connections?

Baker, Biomed Res Int, 2010

In vitro