

## **UW** Medicine

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON MEDICAL CENTER



## Neonatal Respiratory Rhythms and Prematurity

THE LINK BETWEEN PRETERM BIRTH AND RESPIRATION ISSUES IN INFANTS



## Why Study Prematurity?

15 million babies born prematurely per year

90% of premature babies die within days of birth in low-income countries

Issues surrounding ventilation of premature infants

- Costly and lack of availability
- Leads to future respiration issues





## The Ramirez Lab

Hypothesis involving the central nervous system—pre-Bötzinger Complex

Mouse models of prematurity

- Lipopolysaccharide (LPS)
- Control
- C-Section





## In vivo vs. In vitro

Translating breathing into neural firing from respiratory centers

Slicing and electrophysiology

Analyzing different types of breathing with plethysmography

• Eupneas, sighs, and gasps









### Types of Respiration in a Mouse Model

1. Eupneas

2. Large breaths

3. Saw Breaths

4. Gasps

## Control Breathing (Term Birth)



## LPS Breathing (Preterm Birth)



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## Control vs. LPS Transitions (10 vs 60 m)



Large Saw Gasp Eupnea

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# *in vitro* preBötC Rhythm: Control (include area)



Burst area: 0.788836642

## in vitro preBötC Rhythm: LPS



Burst area: 38.0366854



## The Next Step

A newer hypothesis introducing the post-inspiratory complex (PIC)

New slicing and recording approaches

Drug manipulation and responses from each center • Ex. morphine



## Thank you!

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