



The Neuroscience Letter

Enlargement of the editorial board of the Letters of the LARC-Neuroscience Network

To facilitate the publication of the Letter of the LARC-Neuroscience network, an editorial board has been expanded and consists of **Carine ALI** (Caen), **Sebastien BOURET** (Lille), **Darek GORECKI** (Portsmouth), **Vincent PRÉVOT** (Lille), **Charles TYLER** (Exeter), **David VAUDRY** (Rouen) and **Hubert VAUDRY** (Rouen). The board's role is to collect your contributions, to ensure consistency of the items published, taking into account the diversity of the potential readers, to make the texts uniform and to prepare the bilingual editions. The final publication of the Letter and its posting are arranged by **Laurence MATEO** and **Yacine NEKROUF**. Finally, the wide distribution of the letter by e-mail has been developed by **Alexis LEBON**. In addition to items to be published in this Letter, you can provide our team with relevant advertisements/announcements to be posted on the website of the LARC-Neuroscience Network: <http://larc-neurosciences.org>.

Brain awareness week

The Brain Awareness Week will take place this year in all European countries from March 12 to 18. In Lille, on Thursday, March 15, from 6 to 8 PM in the amphitheater Buttiaux at the Pasteur Institute, the Institute Pasteur and Inserm organize a conference entitled "Alzheimer's disease: from research to the management at home" with **Pr. Luc BUÉE** (Director of the team "Alzheimer & Tauopathies", Inserm Unit 837), **Pr. Florence PASQUIER** (Chief of the neurology department at the University Hospital of Lille) and **Pr. Philippe AMOUYEL** (Director of the UMR Inserm 744 and Director of the Alzheimer Foundation Plan). The screening of the documentary "I am", followed by a discussion on stroke is scheduled on Monday, March 12 at the Pasteur Institute between 6 and 8 PM. Several speakers to participate in the discussion include **Dr. Jean DAL-LONGEVILLE** (Director of Research at UMR 744). In Rouen, an exhibition entitled "Fighting against forgetfulness/Alzheimer's Disease" will be presented to the Science Faculty of Mont-Saint-Aignan from March 12 to 19. A series of lectures will also be given by **Pr. Catherine BARTHELEMY** (Inserm U930), **Dr. Stéphane DERREY** (Rouen University Hospital), **Dr. Magalie LECOURTOIS** (Inserm U1079), **Dr. Eric MAUBERT** (Inserm U919) and **Pr. Mickael NAASSILA** (Inserm Eri 24, Amiens), on Saturday, March 17 from 3 PM at the science space h₂O (Boisguilbert Dock, Rouen). The detailed program can be found on the website of the LARC-Neuroscience network (<http://larc-neurosciences.univ-rouen.fr>).

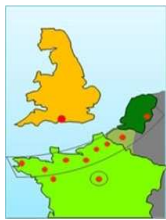
As part of the seminars of the Centre Jean-Pierre Aubert (JPARC), **Dr. Julie BAKKER** (University of Liege) will give a conference (on March 8, 2012 at 11 AM in the Council Chamber of the Research cluster, Faculty of Medicine of Lille, France) entitled "The role of gonadal hormones in the sexual differentiation of the brain." Contact: **Dr. Vincent PREVOT** (Inserm U837).

Under the program of seminars of Inserm Unit 982, **Dr. Xavier XIFRO** (Barcelona University) will give a conference (March 15, 2012, at 13 PM in Room 308 of the main building of the Faculty of Science at Mont-Saint-Aignan, Rouen) entitled "The importance of protein dysregulation in Huntington's disease for the application of a neuroprotective therapy". Contact: **Dr. Maïté MONTERO** (Inserm U982).

Under the program of the Scientific Meetings of the Institute for Biomedical Research and Innovation (IRIB), **Dr. Didier VIEAU** (EA 4489, Environmental and Perinatal Growth Laboratory, Lille, France) will give a conference (on April 3rd, 2012, 10:30 AM, at the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Rouen, France) entitled "Malnutrition and maternal prenatal metabolic programming in male rats." Contacts: **Drs. Bruno GONZALEZ** and **Philippe LEROUX** (Neovasc Laboratory EA 4309).

A symposium entitled "Neuropeptides and their release: implication for new therapeutics" will be held at King's College London from June 7 to 9, 2012 by **Dr. Susan**

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New Unit

Creation of a new CNRS - CEA - Université de Caen Basse-Normandie Unit



The CNRS-CEA-UCBN Unit UMR 6301 "Imaging and therapeutic strategies for brain diseases and tumors" (ISTCT), led by **Dr. Myriam BERNAUDIN** and hosted at Cyceron center, is interested in some pathophysiological mechanisms in oncology (brain tumors), neurology (cerebral ischemia) and psychiatry (schizophrenia), and aims to develop therapeutic strategies or innovative biomedical imaging approaches to study these disorders. This Unit consists of three teams with complementary expertise with sixty researchers, technicians/engineers, associates clinicians and students with different background (chemistry, radiochemistry, biology, pathophysiology, cognitive sciences, biomedical imaging and mental health), promoting the development of transverse and translational research. The team CERVOxy "Hypoxia, Pathophysiology and Cerebrovascular Tumor" (led by **Dr. Myriam BERNAUDIN**) seeks to identify/develop new therapeutic strategies targeting hypoxia, ischemia and brain tumors, combining multimodal imaging (MRI, PET) and searches for biomarkers of treatment efficiency. Among these strategies, the interest of particle therapy and of imaging guided radiotherapy will be evaluated. The team LDM-PET "Laboratory Development Methodology in Positron Emission Tomography" (led by **Dr. Louisa BARRÉ**) is dedicated to the development of radiopharmaceuticals for pre-clinical and clinical research. Finally the team ISTS "Imaging and Treatment Strategies of Schizophrenia" (led by **Dr. Sonia DOLLFUS**) investigates the neural basis of cognitive dysfunctions and the interest of repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS) at high frequency guided by brain imaging for the treatment of schizophrenia.

New contracts

As part of the project call from the non-thematic ANR program 2011, the team CERVOxy (UMR 6301 ISTCT, Caen, France; project leader: **Dr. Samuel VALABLE**) is implicated in the approved IMOXY project, which involves the pre-clinical development of an imaging method of cerebral oxygenation by MRI in the context of ischemia and brain tumors. This project is coordinated by **Dr. Emmanuel BARBIER**, INSERM U836, Grenoble (total amount awarded € 480 896).

Under the 2011 call for projects: 'Biomedical research on cancer', funding was awarded to the UMR 6301 ISTCT for the proposal entitled "Identification of combinatory biomarkers for PET and MRI imaging to provide a predictive response of glioblastomas to combinatory therapy with temozolomide and bevacizumab." The study coordinated by the team CERVOxy, (project leader: **Dr. Samuel VALABLE**) will investigate the spatial and temporal relationships between metabolism, hypoxia, vascularity and tumor growth. This project involves two other partners: the LDM-PET team (UMR 6301 ISTCT, Caen) and the QuantIF team (LITIS Laboratory, EA 4108, Rouen) (total amount awarded € 245 000).



As part of the first edition of the ANR program "Mental Health and Addictions" (Samentis), the project SENSBALCO was selected. This project coordinated by **Pr. Mickael NAASSILA** (Inserm Eri 24, Amiens, France) includes two other teams (**Dr. David VAUDRY**, Inserm U982 and **Pr. Jean-Pol TASSIN**, Inserm U952 UMPC) and aims to understand the neurobiological mechanisms of behavioral sensitization to the stimulatory effects of alcohol. One theory of addiction is that a progressive increase of some positive effects of alcohol would play a major role in relapse (amount awarded € 586 148).



Funding from the 'French Food and Health Fund' has been granted to the laboratory 'Nutrition, Gut & Brain' (Inserm Unit 1073) for a research project aimed at understanding the interaction between satiety factors and dopamine in the mechanism of food reward. This project coordinated by **Pr. Sergei FETISSOV** will start in 2012 with the study of the role of the α -MSH peptide and anti α -MSH autoantibodies in the secretion of dopamine in two brain regions during food intake in rats (total amount granted € 95 340).

Under the project call from the non-thematic ANR program 2011, the team Development and Postnatal Brain Plasticity (UMR 837 Inserm, Lille, France; project leader: **Dr. Sebastien BOURET**) is involved in the LIPO-BRAIN project, which aims to study the role of the central lipid sensing in the nervous control of energy balance. This project is coordinated by **Pr. Christophe MAGNAN**, CNRS EAC 4413, Paris Diderot University (total amount awarded € 506 000).

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