



# The Neuroscience Letter

## Recruitments



Ms **Marie FRANCOIS** has been recruited on the TC2N project as a doctoral student at Rouen University. Her research project will be aimed at characterising the expression of ghrelin in the brain and to study its relevance to food intake control. She begins her work in the "Nutrition Gut & Brain" Inserm U1073 Laboratory in Rouen (thesis supervisor Pr **Serguei FETISSOV**) and will collaborate with other research teams of the TC2N network in Rouen, Portsmouth and Rotterdam.



Ms **Johanna SCHAEFER** has been recruited on the TC2N project as a junior researcher in Rotterdam by the Erasmus MC, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, to work in collaboration with Pr **Serguei FETISSOV** (Rouen). She will work in the laboratory in Rouen to investigate autoantibodies directed against neuropeptides (ACTH, alpha-MSH, possibly also ghrelin) in serum of Dutch adolescents. These autoantibodies will be related to aggression, depression and anxiety of the adolescents.



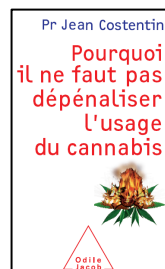
In Exeter, Dr **Aya TAKESONO** was recruited to study in collaboration with researchers in Rennes (INSERM U1101) and Brest (INSERM U1085), and will be investigating brain targets of certain environmental estrogens.



In Portsmouth, Dr **Suzannah PAGE** has been recruited by the "Genetics of Brain Development Group" and Dr **Rasneer BAINS** has been recruited to join the Metabolism and Obesity Group to work on the TC2N project.

Finally, Mr **Alexis LEBON** was recruited by the University of Rouen for the development of communication tools in the TC2N project. In particular, he will be in charge of setting up a new bilingual website for the LARC-Neuroscience network.


## Scientific Edition



In a book, entitled "*Why should cannabis use not be decriminalized*", published by Editions Odile Jacob (February 2012), Pr **Jean COSTENTIN**, member of the French Academy of Medicine and of the Academy of Pharmacy, reported on the dangers of cannabis, especially for very young, and lists reasons that argue for the continued prohibition of this drug, based on recent neurobiological, clinical and epidemiological data.

## New contracts

Duchenne Parents Project charity (The Netherlands) awarded Pr **Darek GORECKI** a project grant (total amount awarded € 135,000) for analysis of P2X7 receptor alterations in muscular dystrophy.

A research contract on "Effects of the neuropeptide PACAP on brain oxidative stress induced by Binge Drinking"  was awarded by the Institute for Scientific Research on Beverages (IREB) to Inserm unit U982. The work will be performed under the direction of Dr **David VAUDRY** (total amount awarded € 7,000).

## Brain Awareness Week

A series of conferences will be given in the auditorium of the h<sub>2</sub>O CREA Boisguilbert dock at Rouen, Saturday, March 17, 2012 from 15 to 18 h. The Speakers are: Pr **Mickael NAASSILA** (Inserm Eri 24, Amiens) "*Alcohol and adolescence, a bad mixture*"; Pr **Catherine BARTHELEMY** (Inserm U930, Tours) "*Autism: from exploration to brain therapy*"; Dr **Magalie LECOURTOIS** (Inserm U1079, Rouen) "*Contribution of Drosophila for the study of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias*"; Dr **Stéphane DERREY** (Rouen University Hospital, Rouen) "*Chronic pain in Neurosurgery: role of spinal cord stimulation for pain relief*" and Dr **Eric MAUBERT** (Inserm U919, Caen) "*Stroke: models, therapies and hopes!*".

## Mobility

In the context of the TC2N project, Mr **Ismael DAHER** and Mr **Karim ATMANI**, Master students from the University of Rouen, are conducting a 4-month internship at Portsmouth in the teams "Genetics of Brain Development" (Dr **Frank SCHUBERT**) and "Metabolism and Obesity Group" (Dr **Ivor EBENEZER**).

## Creation of CENOMEXA



In accordance with the National Charter on ethics for animal experimentation, the National Committee on Ethics Reflection for Animal Experiments (CNREEA) of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research has approved the establishment of the Ethic Committee of Normandy in Animal Experimentation (CENOMEXA) which groups 9 Establishments of Animal Experimentation that include all laboratories working in Neuroscience at the Universities of Lower and Upper Normandy. Dr **Hubert VAUDRY** (Inserm U982) was elected Chairman and Mr **Laurent CHAZALVIEL** (Cyceron) was elected Vice-Chairman of CENOMEXA. Ms **Laurence MATEO** will be in charge of the secretariat of CENOMEXA.

## IRON Labex « Innovative Radiopharmaceuticals in Oncology and Neurology »



IRON Labex is the winner of the second wave of calls for project "Investment for the Future" for "Laboratories of excellence." The scientific objective of this Labex is the transfer to clinic of innovative radiopharmaceuticals for positron emission tomography (PET) imaging, needed to develop individualized programs of care, major health issues in the fields of Neurology and Cancer. The success of personalized medicine requires powerful tools to select patients who may benefit from targeted therapies and evaluate precociously therapeutic responses in order to avoid toxicity and unnecessary costs of ineffective therapy. This translational program includes innovations in the production of radioisotopes, chemistry and radiochemistry, radiopharmacy, preclinical models and clinical research in functional imaging and phenotypic, nanomedicine and molecular radiotherapy.

IRON, coordinated by Pr **Françoise KRAEBER-BODERE** (U892 Inserm-PRES UNAM, Nantes) brings together 11 partners, including UMR 6301-CNRS-CEA-University of Caen ISTCT "Imaging and Therapeutic Strategies of Cerebral and Tumoral pathophysiology" and particularly the LDM-PET team "Laboratory of Methodological Development in Positron Emission Tomography", led by Dr **Louisa BARRE** and the CERVOxy team "Hypoxia, Cerebrovascular and Tumoral Physiopathologies", led by Dr **Myriam BERNAUDIN**. The main research objectives of ISTCT are to better understand the pathophysiological mechanisms involved in some disorders observed in Oncology and Neurology and to develop innovative treatment strategies for these diseases, as well as new tools for biomedical imaging to the diagnosis and/or evaluation of treatment efficacy. It is in this context that, within the IRON Labex, LDM-PET will provide expertise in the development of innovative radiopharmaceuticals for PET and CERVOxy will provide expertise in animal models in neuroncology and ischemia/hypoxia as well as in the preclinical multimodal imaging (PET/MRI).

The cyclotron high energy high intensity ARRONAX will provide access in the coming months to innovative radionuclides for diagnostic purposes (64 copper, scandium 44/44m, 68 gallium, zirconium 89) and therapeutic (67 copper, scandium 47 and 211 astatine) in Oncology.

This program is based on complete imaging platforms of conventional nuclear medicine and PET going from preclinical to clinical such as the Cyceron platform that hosts the 2 teams of Caen involved in this Labex.

By creating a network of teams with complementary skills, ranging from the production of innovative radionuclides to clinical research, and establishing strong partnerships with the pharmaceutical industry, this research program should lead to significant scientific, social and economic progress in Nuclear Medicine and Radiopharmacy in three main areas: neurological diagnostic, oncological diagnostic and oncological therapeutic.

### Scientific meetings

As part of the Interreg TC2N project, Dr **Frank SCHUBERT** (Institute of Biomedical and Biomolecular Sciences School of Biological Sciences University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth, Great Britain) will present on March 28, 2012, at 10 PM in the meeting room of PRIMACEN at the Faculty of Science and Technology, in Mont-Saint-Aignan (Rouen, France), a conference entitled "Building the brain - neurons, axons and molecules in the embryonic vertebrate neural tube." Contact: Dr **Hélène CASTEL** (Inserm U982).



The lecture of Dr **Xavier XIFRO** (University of Barcelona, Spain) originally scheduled March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012, is postponed to May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 1 PM in the meeting room of PRIMACEN at the Faculty of Science and Technology, in Mont-Saint-Aignan (Rouen, France), Title of the conference "The Importance of protein deregulation in Huntington's disease for the application of a neuroprotective therapy." Contact: Dr **Maité MONTERO** (Inserm U982).



### New website for the French Society of Neuroendocrinology

A new modernized website of the French Society of Neuroendocrinology has just been posted at the following address: <http://www.societe-neuroendocrinologie.fr>. You can send documents to publish on the website by contacting Dr **Olivier KAH** ([olivier.kah@univ-rennes1.fr](mailto:olivier.kah@univ-rennes1.fr)) and/or Dr **Yves TILLET** ([yves.tillet@inra.tours.fr](mailto:yves.tillet@inra.tours.fr)).

### 16<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the LARC-Neuroscience network

During the LARC-Neuroscience meeting that will take place on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012, in Portsmouth, Pr **Peter SOMOGYI** (Director of the Anatomical Neuropharmacology Unit at the University of Oxford) will give a lecture entitled "Space and time in cooperating neuronal circuits of the hippocampus".

Find us on:

<http://larc-neurosciences.org>

