



# The Neuroscience Letter

The LARC-Neurosciences network

## Happy New Year!

First of all, I wish you a Happy New Year. I would also like to take the opportunity of this first Neuroscience Letter of 2014 to thank all the people who have provided articles to publish in this bilingual letter in 2013. I want to acknowledge specifically the support of **Carine ALI, Serguei FETISSOV, Paul GIULIANI, Darek GORECKI, Alexis LEBON, Laurence MATÉO, Vincent PRÉVOT, Charles TYLER** and **Hubert VAUDRY** who were the most active contributors to the editorial work. Every 2 months, the letter is distributed electronically to 3,746 addresses and over 350 hard copies are posted. In 2014, if you would like to submit topics of interest for neuroscientists (meetings, conferences, publications, trainings, etc...), please do not hesitate to send me a short text in the spirit of the letter in French and/or English, at [david.vaudry@univ-rouen.fr](mailto:david.vaudry@univ-rouen.fr). Texts for the March issue should be provided by February 21<sup>st</sup>.

Best regards  
David Vaudry

## LARC-Neuroscience network



The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Neuroscience Teaching and Research Network of the North-West (LARC-Neuroscience Network) will take place on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The event will be organized in Caen by the teams of Dr **Myriam BERNAUDIN** (CNRS UMR 6301) and Pr **Denis VIVIEN** (INSERM U919).

## Brain Awareness Week 2014

"The Brain Awareness Week", an event organized each year in partnership with the Society of Neuroscience and the Dana Alliance Association, will take place from March 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014. This event aims at informing and educating the general public about current research in neurobiology. In Rouen, an exhibition entitled "*The chemistry of love*" will be open to the public in the Hall of the Main Building of the Faculty of Science and Technology, from March 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, and a series of conferences and debates will be given at the h2o auditorium of the CREA, located on Quai de Boisguilbert in Rouen, on March 15<sup>th</sup>, starting at 3 PM. These activities are supported by the association Science-Action Haute-Normandie, CREA, INSERM, the University of Rouen and the European Union through the TC2N project. More information on the debates, workshops, conferences and exhibitions organized by teams of the LARC-Neuroscience network will be posted on our website in the coming weeks: <http://larc-neurosciences.org>.



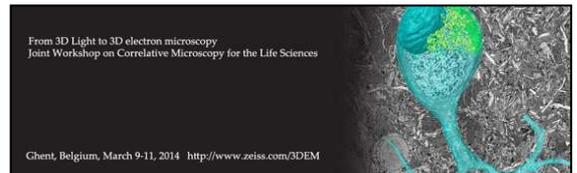
## Scientific edition

Dr **Maria MALAGON** (University of Córdoba, Spain) and Dr **Hubert VAUDRY** (University of Rouen, France) have edited a special issue of **HORMONE AND METABOLIC RESEARCH** entitled "*Hypothalamic Control of Energy Homeostasis*" which encompasses 12 articles published by leading experts in central regulation of food intake and energy metabolism.



## Meetings and trainings in Ghent

Researchers from the Flanders Institute for Biotechnology (VIB), in collaboration with Zeiss, will organize a seminar on 3D correlative microscopy for the life sciences entitled "*From 3D Light to 3D Electron Microscopy*", in Ghent, Belgium, from March 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014. This conference includes oral presentations, poster sessions and workshops. For more information and registration, visit: [www.zeiss.com/3DEM](http://www.zeiss.com/3DEM).



Following the symposium on 3D correlative microscopy for the life sciences, the team of Dr **Christopher GUÉRIN** will organize a workshop on 3D electron microscopy entitled "*3View Users Group Meeting and Symposia*", at VIB Bio-Imaging Core, in Ghent, on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014. For more information and registration, visit: <http://www.vib.be/en/news/Pages/3View-Users-Group-Meeting-and-Symposium.aspx>.



Participation to these events is free but registration is obligatory since the number of participants is limited to 70.

## Seminar in Lille

Dr **Jérôme CLASADONTE** (Department of Neuroscience, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, USA) will give a lecture entitled "*Importance of astrocyte-derived adenosine in the modulation of sleep and epilepsy*" in the conference room of the Bisetre building of the Jean-Pierre Aubert Research Centre, INSERM UMR 837, Lille, on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 at 11 AM.





### Blog for Science

A blog entitled "Cerveau aux hormones", which aims at sharing thoughts on neuroendocrinology and brain sciences, was created by Dr **Jacques EPELBAUM** (INSERM UMR 894). The blog can be accessed at the following address: <http://www.scilogs.fr/cerveau-aux-hormones>.



### Lay public conference

Within the framework of the European **YEAR OF THE BRAIN 2014** EUROPE, an initiative promoted by the European Brain Council, the University of Portsmouth is hosting, a series of conferences for the general public. On February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014, scientists from various disciplines will showcase the latest research, treatment and thinking around the brain. The event will be chaired by Prof **Darek GORECKI** while Dr **David VAUDRY** (Inserm U982) will give a lecture on the effects of alcohol on the brain of teenagers. For more information and registration, please visit: <http://focusonbrain.eventbrite.co.uk>.

### Science Festival 2013

As part of the Science Festival 2013, the CERVOxy Team of the ISTCT Unit in Caen, France, designed a full scale MRI model to explain this imaging technique to the general public, with particular a focus on children. For two days, simulations of acquisition of anatomical and functional images of the brain were performed on over 120 children. This model was constructed thanks to CNRS and the TC2N project (Trans Channel Neuroscience Network), funded by the Interreg IVA 2 Seas cross-border cooperation program 2007-2013.



### Congress

Dr **Serguei FETISSOV** (Inserm U1073, Rouen) has given a lecture entitled "Modulation of hunger and satiety peptides by plasma immunoglobulins" at the 7<sup>th</sup> Cachexia Conference which took place in Kobe, Japan, from December 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013.



### Publications

**K. Takagi, R. Legrand, A. Asakawa, H. Amitani, M. François, N. Tennoune, M. Coëffier, S. Claeysens, J.C. do Rego, P. Déchelotte, A. Inui, S.O. Fetissov.** Anti-ghrelin immunoglobulins modulate ghrelin stability and its orexigenic effect in obese mice and humans. In this article published in *Nature Communications* (2013;4:2685), researchers from Inserm Unit 1073, in collaboration with the Department of Psychosomatic Medicine, University of Kagoshima, Japan, describe a new mechanism of hyperphagia during obesity. Indeed, plasma IgG immunoglobulins are able to bind ghrelin, the hunger hormone, and protect it from degradation. In addition, in obese patients and mice, IgG with increased affinity for ghrelin enhance the orexigenic effect of ghrelin. This work provides a better understanding of the interaction between the gut, the immune system and the brain in the regulation of feeding behavior, and opens new possibilities for the treatment of obesity and eating disorders.

**N. Lucas, R. Legrand, W. Ouelaa, J. Breton, N. Tennoune, C. Bole - Feysot, P. Déchelotte, S.O. Fetisov.** Effects of rabbit anti-alpha-melanocystimulating hormone ( $\alpha$ -MSH) immunoglobulins on  $\alpha$ -MSH signaling related to food intake control. In this article published in *Neuropeptides* (2013, PMID: 24238616), researchers from Inserm U1073 in Rouen show that anti- $\alpha$ -MSH antibodies increase the anorexigenic effects of  $\alpha$ -MSH by enhancing activation of melanocortin receptor 4.

### TC2N project final conference

The final conference of the Interreg project TC2N, organized by researchers at the Flanders Institute for Biotechnology (VIB), will be held in Ghent, Belgium, on June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014. On this occasion, the various teams involved in the TC2N project will present their work. This meeting will also be an opportunity to give an overview of the project's deliverables and to discuss further collaborations.

Find us on:

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2007-2013 Part-financed by the European Union  
(European Regional Development Fund)