POST-DOCTORAL POSITION

BEHAVIOURAL SENSITIZATION TO THE LOCOMOTOR EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL AND VULNERABILITY TO ALCOHOL ADDICTION

To be recruited before July 2013

Place: INSERM ERI 24 unit - GRAP Laboratory (Research Group on Alcohol & Pharmacodependences)
Université de Picardie Jules Verne, UFR de Pharmacie, 1 rue des Louvels 80000 AMIENS, France
Head of the unit: Pr Mickael Naassila
Contact: mickael.naassila@inserm.fr

Fundings: Conseil regional de Picardie
Salary: 1950 euros/month – 2 years –

Subject: Drug-induced sensitization may play a crucial role both in the initial step in the addiction process and may further explain the increase in drug "wanting," being responsible for the dramatically exaggerated motivation for drugs displayed by addicts and the risk of relapse. Nowadays, there is clear evidence that drug-induced sensitization may be involved in addiction but the exact mechanisms are still poorly known. Our laboratory is the coordinator of a national project called SENSIBALCO funded by the Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) that aims to decipher neurobiological mechanisms underlying sensitization and its role in addiction. We are currently investigating the phenomenon of sensitization in both mice and rats with a particular interest in associated states/traits (impulsivity, anxiety, loss of control over intake, relapse), cellular mechanisms (growth factors, transduction pathways) and neuronal network plasticity.

The candidate should have a PhD in Neurosciences with an important experience in animal behaviour (mice and rats) and cellular biology. Experience in the field of drug addiction would be a plus but is not obligatory.

Please send CV and reference letters and contact Pr Mickael NAASSILA (33 3 22 82 77 58). The position is available right now (contract should start ASAP and before July 2013).

Our recent publications related to the present project:
Fluoxetine, desipramine, and the dual antidepressant milnacipran reduce alcohol self-administration and/or relapse in dependent rats > E Simon O’Brien et al. Neuropsychopharmacol 2011.
Expression of ethanol-induced behavioral sensitization is associated with alteration of chromatin remodeling in mice > B Botia et al. PlosOne 2012

Web sites: http://www.u-picardie.fr/decouverte/sante/pagesliees/grap/accueilgrap.html
http://ansensibalco.jimdo.com/