

Targeting adolescent neurocognitive processes in depression to promote intervention response (ADORE)

Project Coordinator: MD PhD Jean-Luc Martinot, Neuroimaging & Psychiatry, French Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM), Gif-sur-Yvette, France

Project Partners:

Prof. Patricia Conrod, Department of Psychiatry, CHU Sainte-Justine, University of Montreal, Montreal, Canada
Catherine Belzung, Imaging and Brain (iBrain), Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM), University of Tours, Tours, France

Dr. Igor Branchi, Center for Behavioral Sciences and Mental Health, National Institute of Health, Rome, Italy

Dr. Florin Tibu, Department of Educational Sciences, Universitatea Stefan cel Mare din Suceava, Suceava, Romania

Project aim. We will i) describe neural and cognitive functions implicated in adolescent onset depressive symptoms, and their involvement in transition to major depression and in treatment response, allowing to ii) provide novel cognitive and/or neural intervention components for at-risk adolescents, using a targeted and neurodevelopmentally-informed framework.

Workplan. Using three exceptional longitudinal cohorts which have recently completed long-term follow-up of adolescents at varying risk for depression, we will search for neural and cognitive features involved in the transition to early-onset depression, and recruit new samples to determine their role in predicting response to behavioral and pharmacological treatment. Hypotheses on the causal role of these neural and environmental factors will be tested in preclinical studies. Neural and cognitive-behavioral measures will be highly harmonized across studies and species, including multiple intervention approaches. New neurocognitive targets for intervention will be applied in two at-risk adolescent samples (resistant to psychosocial intervention in Canada, or exposed to childhood adversity in Romania) by the end of this three-year project.

Exploitation of the results. Dissemination of project results will occur via publications in scientific journals and participation to international meetings. Popularization through medias, science websites, or putative brevets will be managed with partners' institutions.