

PhD Studentship in neuro-immunology

Project Title:	Inflammatory B cells as pathogenic mediators in Multiple Sclerosis.
Location:	Faculty of Medicine, Lille University hospital, France.
Host Laboratory:	Neuroinflammation and Multiple Sclerosis, Inserm UMR-S 1172, Lille, Neuroscience & Cognition, University of Lille, CHU of Lille.
Principal Investigator:	Lennart MARS (Lennart.Mars@inserm.fr).
Contract:	PhD studentship (3 years, Funded by an international MS innovation grant).
Starting Date:	January 1st, 2021 (negotiable).

A PhD studentship in neuro-immunology is available in the neuroinflammation and Multiple Sclerosis laboratory headed by Dr Lennart Mars. The host laboratory provides a unique scientific environment to perform state-of-the-art research in neuroimmunology and brain immunopathology. We are integrated in the Lille Neuroscience & Cognition research centre, a dynamic research environment dedicated to Neuroscience, Neuro-immunology, and Cognition. The institute comprises 5 research teams hosting nearly 200 research staff. We are located in the vibrant city of Lille which is ideally positioned in between Amsterdam, London and Paris.

We are currently seeking a highly motivated and pro-active PhD student to define the contribution of a novel inflammatory B cell subset to Multiple Sclerosis. Undoubtedly an autoimmune disease, Multiple Sclerosis mobilises the full breath of the innate and adaptive immune response. The complexity of MS goes beyond autoreactivity. In addition to genetic and environmental factors, progressive immune-senescence is thought to contribute to disease progression. The available PhD project will study this contribution with focus on a novel aging-associated B cell subset. Cutting edge approaches in immunohistochemistry, flow cytometry, cellular immunology and transcriptomics will be used to characterise these cells in longitudinal MS cohorts and experimental disease. This thesis project will be developed in collaboration with the MS clinic at the CHU of Lille, and the research team of Dr Jan Bauer at the Center for Brain Research in Vienna, Austria.

The successful applicant will have an MSc in immunology, neuro-immunology, or a related discipline. Experience in either flow cytometry, human cell biology or *in vivo* models would be advantageous. Skills for work organisation, efficacy, scientific curiosity and a goal-oriented commitment will be appreciated. You will share responsibility for the progress of the research project and contribute to its design and analysis. You will actively participate in meetings at group and institute level and attend conferences, workshops or training courses pertaining to your field of research. You will provide guidance to junior lab members and maintain an up-to-date knowledge of relevant publications.

This is a full-time, fixed term appointment for 36 months and will be based at the University hospital Campus in Lille.

Applications or enquiries should be made to Dr Lennart Mars (Lennart.Mars@inserm.fr). Applications must include a CV, letter of motivation and a letter of reference.