



# 1st International Workshop 'Virus & Brain'

2-3 June 2026 - Montpellier, France

## Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2026

8.15am Registration

8.50 - 9.15am **Daniel Dunia & Annie Lannuzel (organizers)**  
**Yazdan Yazdanpanah (Director, thematic institute I3M) & Denis Vivien (Director, thematic institute Neuro)**  
Welcome notes

### Session 1. Virus & Cells – Approaches to study the molecular and cellular biology of neuroinfections

Chairman: Raphael Gaudin

9.15 - 10.00am **Carl Sellgren - Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm (Sweden)**  
"Using human brain organoids to model neurotropic viruses"

10.00 - 10.25am **Jean-Pierre Levrud - NeuroPSI Saclay (France)**  
"A direct view of alphavirus invasion of the zebrafish brain"

10.25 - 10.40am **Katharina Schiering - University Medical Center Hamburg - Eppendorf (Germany)**  
"JC-Polyomavirus infection of cerebral organoid slices at the air-liquid interface"

**10.40 - 11.10am Coffee break**

11.10 - 11.25am **Gaëtan Ligat - Infinity, Toulouse (France)**  
"YBX1 drives HCMV replication in glioblastoma"

11.25 - 11.40am **David Noyvert - University of Cambridge (UK)**  
"Signal Peptide Peptidase is an Essential Host Factor for Replication of Neurotropic Human Astroviruses"

11.40 - 11.55am **Paula Leupold - Max-Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine (MDC-BIMSB, Germany)**  
"Studying WNV and HSV-1 infection in brain organoids with spatial transcriptomics"

11.55 - 12.20pm **Anna Överby - Umeå Universitet (Sweden)**  
"Understanding viral tropism using whole brain imaging and single nuclei RNA sequencing"

**12.20 - 2.00pm Lunch**

**1.00 - 2.00pm Poster session 1**

## Session 2. Virus & Neuropathogenesis - Neurologic and neurocognitive dysfunctions upon infection

Chairman: Daniel Dunia

- 2.00 - 2.45pm **Robyn Klein** - Western University, London (Canada)  
“Emerging RNA viruses and post-infectious cognitive dysfunction”
- 2.45 - 3.10pm **Debby van Riel** - Erasmus MC, Rotterdam (the Netherlands)  
“The neuropathogenesis of influenza”
- 3.10 - 3.25pm **Jules Bouget** - IRIM, CNRS & Univ Montpellier (France)  
“Pharmacological targeting of Bunyavirus-induced synaptic impairment prevents neuronal hyperexcitability”
- 3.25 - 3.50pm **Patricia Beltrão-Braga** - Univ São Paulo (Brazil)  
“Decoding Neuroviral Impact on Brain Development Using Human iPSC-Derived Organoids”
- 3.50 - 4.15pm **Coffee break**
- 4.15 - 4.30pm **Isis Leguay** - Virologie et Immunologie Moléculaires, INRAE, Jouy-en-Josas (France)  
“Neurotropism characterisation of PVM: a Pneumovirus naturally infecting mice”
- 4.30 - 4.45pm **Michalina Bartak** - Institute of Veterinary Medicine, Warsaw University of Life Sciences (Poland)  
“Molecular mechanisms of Sialodacryoadenitis Virus neuropathogenicity in an in vitro primary cell culture model of the central nervous system”
- 4.45 - 5.00pm **Sofie Nyström** - IFM-Chemistry, Linköping (Sweden)  
“Virus protein amyloids as triggers of neurodegenerative disease”
- 5.00 - 5.15pm **Dennis Freisem** - Ulm University (Germany)  
“The role of HSV-1 in the molecular pathology of ALS”
- 5.15 - 5.30pm **Alba Pérez Arribas** - University of Copenhagen (Denmark)  
“The contribution of HSV-1 to the development of neurodegeneration through HIF-1 $\alpha$ ”
- 5.30 - 7.30pm** **Social event (onsite registration)**  
8.00pm Dinner for invited speakers and organizers

## Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2026

- 9.00 - 10.15am **Thematic round tables**  
Virus & Cells; Virus & Pathogenicity; Virus & Immunity
- 10.30 - 11.00am** **Coffee break**
- 11.00 - 11.45am Structured write-up
- 11.45 - 1.30pm** **Lunch**
- 12.30 - 13.30pm** **Poster session 2**

### Session 3. Virus & Immunity - Mechanisms associated with neuroinflammation and antiviral responses

Chairman: Cyrille Mathieu

- 1.30 - 2.15pm **Søren R. Paludan** - Aarhus Univ (Denmark)  
“Innate antiviral responses in the brain: host defense and immunopathology”
- 2.15 - 2.40pm **Réjane Rua** - CIML Marseille (France)  
“Brain borders take center stage: role of skull and meningeal myeloid cells in controlling neuroinflammation”
- 2.40-2.55pm **Jinte Middeldorp** - Biomedical Primate Research Centre, Rijswijk (The Netherlands)  
“Multimodal evidence of SARS-CoV-2–induced neuroinflammation and neurodegeneration in non-human primates”
- 2.55-3.20pm **Muriel Couplier** - UMR of Virology, INRAE, Maisons-Alfort (France)  
“Modeling Neural Infection by Emerging Arboviruses to Advance Antiviral Discovery”
- 3.20-3.35pm **Michelle Gellhorn Serra** - Institute of Virology, Marburg University (Germany)  
“Establishment of murine and human in vitro blood-brain barrier models to study CNS entry of Ebola virus and Nipah virus via the hematogenous route”
- 3.35 - 4.00pm **Keshia Kroh** - Erasmus MC, Rotterdam (the Netherlands)  
“Keratinocytes as entry portals for rabies virus neuroinvasion”
- 4.00 - 4.15pm **Yonatan Ganor** - Institut Cochin, Paris (France)  
“Neuroimmune interplay between nociceptor neurons and immune Langerhans cells in HSV-2 and HIV-1 co-infection”
- 4.15 - 4.30pm** **Concluding remarks & Best poster/oral presentation awards**
- 4.30 - 6.00pm Closed-door organizing committee meeting

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