Laboratory title : INRA UMR 1286 - Sophie Layé

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Thesis title :
Role of inflammation in the phenomenology and treatment responsiveness of depression

Keywords : Depression, inflammation, antidepressant, treatment, clinical research

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Abstract
Immune alterations in the form of both activated inflammatory processes and reduced immunocompetence have been reported in depression. Despite this data, only little information exists regarding the relevance of immunoregulatory mechanisms for the phenomenology of depressive disorders and antidepressant responsiveness. The aims of this study are (1) to assess the relationship of inflammatory markers and related processes with depressive features/characteristics in patients with unipolar or bipolar depression and (2) to investigate the influence of inflammatory processes on the antidepressant treatment responsiveness and risk of relapse in the same patients.

This study will be conducted in a sample of depressed patients recruited locally through the expert centres network of the Fondation FondaMental. Patients will be followed at regular time points after antidepressant initiation. Patients will be submitted to a complete neuropsychiatric assessment and blood samples will be collected for the measurement of inflammatory markers. The PhD student will be involved in clinical investigations, biological assays, data analysis and manuscript writing. The study will be conducted in cooperation with researchers and clinical psychiatrists both at the national and international levels in the context of European collaborative project.

Qualification required
Background in neuroscience or psychology/psychiatry with notions in clinical research