CNP Seminar & Roundtable in Translational Medicine: "Alternative Career Opportunities in Neuroscience"

Organized to illustrate and stimulate translation of biomedical research into clinical applications, this seminar will provide a platform of exchange between established experts and researchers interested to explore applications at an early stage in their career (Postdoc, Ph.D.)

Friday, April 19, 2013, 3-6 pm
Salle Christian Müller,
Hôpital Psychiatrique de Cery
CH-1008 Prilly-Lausanne
invited by Ron.Stoop@unil.ch

15h-16h00:
Prof. Eero Castren, MD PhD
Director Neuroscience Center,
University of Helsinki

"iPlasticity: pharmacological induction of juvenile-like plasticity in adult brain"

16h-17h00:
Prof. Jonathan Knowles, PhD
President of Group Research, Roche Pharmaceuticals (1997-2009)
Professor Emeritus, EPFL, Lausanne
FiDiPro Professor, FIMM, University of Helsinki, Finland
Visiting Professor University of Oxford, UK

"Personalising CNS diseases"

17h-18h30:
Roundtable & Aperitif
Prof. Dr. Vincent Mooser, Vice-Dean Research, FBM, UNIL
Dr. Stephan Kohler, Director PACTT Technology Transfer, FBM, UNIL
Dr. Sylvain Lengacher, NCCR Synapsy Technology Transfer, EPFL
Dr. Emilio Merlo-Pich, Head Clinical Imaging, Roche Pharmaceuticals

For more information, or for obtaining credits as part of a new course at the Lemanic Neuroscience Doctoral School and/or Continuing Education with the Veterinary Authorities, please contact Ron.Stoop@unil.ch
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Prof. Eero Castren, MD PhD
Director Neuroscience Center, University of Helsinki

"iPlasticity pharmacological induction of juvenile-like plasticity in adult brain"
Neuronal networks are tuned to optimally represent external and internal milieu through neuronal plasticity during critical periods of juvenile life. After the closure of the critical periods, plasticity is considered to be much more limited. We have shown that critical period-like plasticity can be reactivated in the adult mammalian brain by pharmacological treatment with the antidepressant fluoxetine. These studies establish a new principle, induced juvenile-like plasticity (iPlasticity) and define a new class of drugs, iPlastic drugs. For optimal results, iPlastic drug must be combined with physical or psychological rehabilitation, which guide the plastic networks and together allow better adaptation towards changing environment. Neurotrophin BDNF, serotonergic system and reduced inhibition are among the mechanisms that mediate iPlasticity, but how these systems work together to open adult plasticity is unclear. iPlasticity may facilitate functional recovery after brain injury and underlie the enhanced efficacy of combined antidepressant treatment and psychotherapy. (see http://www.helsinki.fi/neurosci/groups/castren.html and Science, 334, 1731, 2011)

Prof. Jonathan Knowles, PhD
Former Head of Group Research, The Roche Group (1997-2008)
Professor Emeritus, EPFL, Lausanne
FiDiPro Professor, FIMM, University of Helsinki, Finland
Visiting Professor University of Oxford, UK, and
Member of the Board of Directors of Hermo Pharma

"Personalising CNS diseases"
Jonathan Knowles has held since 1997 positions at F. Hoffmann-La Roche as president of Global Research, member of the Roche Executive Committee, and served on the boards of Genentech, Chugai Pharmaceuticals. He is a member the corporate scientific advisory committee of Lundbeck and of the Hermo Pharma Board. Hermo Pharma, established in 2008 by Eero Castren and Mart Saarma, is focused on the development of innovative products to treat diseases affecting the nervous system. Among these is a novel approach for treating amblyopia (“lazy eye disease”) by reopening up the critical period during which ocular dominance columns are established and treatments for neurodegenerative disorders such as Parkinson's disease. For further information see http://hermopharma.com and Science 320, 385, 2008)

Roundtable discussion & Aperitif
With Hermo Pharma as a leading example, this roundtable will focus on possibilities and needs for translating basic neuroscience findings into clinical applications. It will follow an ongoing discussion in the academic world (see e.g. Nature 485: 535, 2012; Science, 338: 1405, 2012) to stimulate academic researchers at an early stage in their career (e.g. postdoctoral and graduate students from within their host labs) to consider applications of and prepare translating their basic findings into new medical treatments.
Discussants will include:
Prof. Dr. Vincent Mooser, Vice-Dean Research, FBM, UNIL
Dr. Stephan Kohler, Director PACTT Technology Transfer, FBM, UNIL
Dr. Sylvain Lengacher, NCCR Synapsy Technology Transfer, EPFL
Dr. Emilio Merlo-Pich, Head Clinical Imaging, Roche Pharmaceuticals

For more information, or for obtaining credits as part of a new course at the Lemanic Neuroscience Doctoral School and/or Continuing Education with the Veterinary Authorities, please contact Ron.Stoop@unil.ch
Directions to Salle Christian Muller  
Centre Neurosciences Psychiatriques  
Hôpital de Cery  
Route de Cery  
1008 Prilly - Lausanne

**Public Transport**: From Lausanne Railway station take the subway M2 ([www.t-l.ch](http://www.t-l.ch)) direction "Croisettes" until "Flon" (one stop, runs every 3-6 min), then take the LEB train ([www.leb.ch](http://www.leb.ch)) direction Echallens until station *Cery-Fleur-de-Lys* (leaves every 30 min e.g. 9h30, 10am, etc. takes about 10 min). *(Small change for ticket machines needed !)*

**By car from the highway**: exit Lausanne Blécherette, direction Prilly, until *H-Site de Cery* on your right (about 1 km).

**From the centre of Lausanne**: Place Chaudron, follow the avenue d’Echallens direction Neuchâtel, follow the railway tracks of the LEB along l’avenue de Neuchâtel, until LEB station *Cery-Fleur-de-Lys*, follow on your right the indication *H-Site de Cery*.

**Parking places**: Either the white or bleu parking spots within the Site de Cery or at the parking of the *Centre sportif* opposite the LEB station *Cery-Fleur-de-Lys*. Parking tickets can be obtained for a small fee from the "parcomètres".

Upon arrival at the reception (red circle) follow the signs to Salle Christian Muller. For further indications or other questions, don't hesitate to contact:  
**Viveka.Sari@chuv.ch**, (021 643 69 49) or Ron Stoop (**rstoop@unil.ch**, 021-643.6954)