



Masterclass: Autoimmunity in neuropsychiatric disorders

June 14th, 2017

Master Class:

“Autoimmunity in neuropsychiatric disorders”

Wednesday, June 14th, 2017, UNS 50 Rode zaal, 0.480, Maastricht

Organizers: Dr. Pilar Martinez and Carolin Hoffmann, PhD

Little is known about the etiology of psychiatric disorders, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and psychosis, but patients have been shown to have immunological abnormalities. The identification of autoantibodies targeting the N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor (NMDA-R), which causes neurological and psychiatric symptoms, has reinvigorated the hypothesis that other patient subgroups may also suffer from an underlying autoimmune condition. Recently NMDA receptor autoantibodies have been cloned and shown to cause neuronal surface receptor downregulation and subsequent impairment of NMDAR-mediated currents. In psychotic patients, intrathecal immunoglobulin synthesis, elevated white cell counts, albumin quotient and high prevalence of CSF and autoantibody abnormalities have been observed in a subgroup of patients. In the same cohort, the autoantibodies of the CSF have been found in 3.2 % of the psychotic patients to target neuronal surface antigens. Next research goals should focus on discovering undiagnosed autoimmune cases, the identification of the antigens “membrane proteins and ion channels” targeted by the autoantibodies and to understand how the autoantibodies can cause neuropsychiatric symptoms.



Program

- 10:45 – 11:00 Welcome with tea and coffee
11:00 – 11:10 Welcome and introduction: Pilar Martinez

Session 1:

Chair: Carolin Hoffmann

- 11:10 – 11:45 Jan Damoiseaux, Central Diagnostic Laboratory, Maastricht University Medical Center,
Challenges of autoantibody diagnosis
11:45 – 12:20 Maarten Titulaer, Erasmus Medical Center Rotterdam, Netherlands,
Autoimmunity of the children's brain, mysteries unraveled
12:20 – 13:15 Lunch

Session 2:

Chair: Pilar Martinez

- 13:15 – 13:45 Rob Rouhl, Department of Neurology, Maastricht University, Netherlands
Auto-antibodies in unexplained epilepsy
13:45 – 14:15 Vincent Ramaekers, Neuropédiatrie, CHU Notre-Dame des Bruyères, Liège, Belgium
Folate Receptor Autoimmunity in Neuropsychiatric disorders
14:15 – 14:45 Carolin Hoffmann, Maastricht University, Netherlands,
Prevalence of neuronal autoantibodies in psychotic disorders
14:45 – 15:30 Round-table discussion
15:30 Coffee to socialize and discuss

Fee: €25

Registration: Maximum of 60 participants | **Registration deadline:** June 1st, 2017

Registration via this link: http://www.euronschool.eu/page/145/Online_registration/

After registration you will get a link to the online payment platform. Registration is definitive after payment. For Maastricht participants an internal budget number is required.

This workshop qualifies for 0.5 European credits.