



# Masterclass: Autoimmunity in neuropsychiatric disorders

June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

# Master Class:

## “Autoimmunity in neuropsychiatric disorders”

Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017

**Registration via this link:** [http://www.euronschool.eu/page/145/Online\\_registration/](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.