

BLITZ INTERVIEW



Aline Monin

Aline Monin, 29, studies at the University of Lausanne (Faculté de biologie et de médecine). After her Master's in Medical Biology in 2009, she now graduated with a PhD in neuroscience. She carried out her thesis in Professor Kim Do's laboratory on the role of redox dysregulation in schizophrenia. At present, she is still working in her thesis project lab to finalize experiments and write papers.

What do you work on?

Our main research interest is schizophrenia. The clinical symptoms of schizophrenia partly derive from altered brain connectivity. Disruption of neuronal networks in schizophrenia pathophysiology involves oligodendrocyte and myelin abnormalities. Converging evidence also indicates a role for redox dysregulation, generated by an imbalance between pro-oxidant and antioxidant defense mechanisms, in the development of this pathophysiology. As oligodendrocyte maturation is dependent on redox states, my work was to evaluate whether abnormal redox control contributes to oligodendrocyte and myelin impairments in schizophrenia. To study this hypothesis, we favored a translational approach from human to animal as well as in vitro studies.

Why did you choose neuroscience/psychiatry?

The brain..., a mystery for me. I was curious to study and better understand this fascinating organ. The lack of knowledge in psychiatry as well as patient suffering also provide good reasons to stay in the field of neuroscience.

Where will you be in 20 years?

If I could plan my life, my dream would be to continue working in what I like, above all: neuroscience research and teaching. My life would be completely fulfilled, if I could share my passion with my family, my children.

The scientific breakthrough you are waiting for?

A way to go back in time.

A movie to watch?

The French comedy-drama: "Les Intouchables". From tears to laughter, this fantastic movie gives you a real lesson in life.

Desert island book?

"Ensemble, c'est tout", from Anna Gavalda. This book tells the story of how four people meet, get to know each other, help each other and finally build their lives together. A philosophy of life, that we experience or should experience every day.

Sundays are made for...

Recharging our batteries.

Being part of the NCCR Synapsy is...

A great opportunity to share constructive and enriching criticism as well as collaborating with clinicians and establishing a professional network.