



End of the Year Reflection: Building a Stronger ESBRA Community

Elena Palma, ESBRA ECIC Committee Chair

Dear ESBRA members,

As we approach the end of another eventful year, let's take a moment to reflect on our collective efforts and achievements.

We are proud to highlight that the ESBRA community has been involved in several significant initiatives. The Annual Conference held in Graz served as a focal point, complemented by the introduction of our webinar series and the establishment of the mentorship program, marking a period of substantial growth and connection.

Noteworthy developments include the integration of new enthusiastic and dynamic members into the ECIC committee, promoting diversity of perspectives within our society. Additionally, your increased engagement in the ESBRA community has been evident through your feedback in our inaugural survey and in the communication with the ESBRA office, indicating a deeper collaborative spirit and knowledge exchange.

A special acknowledgment is extended to our President and the Board for their consistent support of ECI initiatives, particularly the travel awards enabling participation in the Annual Conference and

the related ECI events, fostering professional development opportunities.

Looking forward, we aim to expand our community's reach and impact. We anticipate continued growth and collaborative advancements in the coming year.

As the festive season approaches, the ECIC committee would like to wish to each of you a joyful and peaceful holiday season! •

What you will find in this issue of the ESBRA Newsletter:

Meet the ESBRA community: with flash introductory interviews to 4 young ESBRA PIs on page 2

Useful information about the new ESBRA Mentorship Program on page 4

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Could you briefly introduce yourself and the focus of your current research in the alcohol field?



ELE: I am Ele (Dr Elena Palma), a newly appointed Principal Investigator at the Roger Williams Institute of Hepatology,

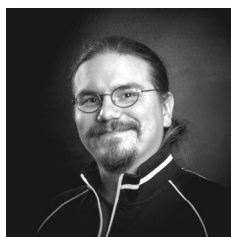
London, where I lead the "Mitochondrial Medicine for Liver Disease" group, focussing on Alcohol-related liver disease (ArLD) and liver cancers (hepatocellular and cholangiocarcinoma, HCC/CCA) research. My dedicated team strives to replicate *in vitro* what happens in patients, developing human 3D experimental models for liver disease to improve their suitability and relevance for drug discovery and pre-clinical screening. Some key projects involve the utilisation of patient-derived Precision Cut Liver or Tumour Slices to test novel multi-pronged therapies, such as exploring the potential of cyclophilin inhibition as a promising strategy for hepatic fibrosis, ArLD and liver cancers.

My passion lies in unravelling the crucial role of mitochondria in liver disease. We investigate the impact of alcohol toxicity on mitochondrial dynamics, specifically the intriguing phenomenon of megamitochondria, with the ultimate challenging goal of pioneering mitochondria-targeted therapies for ArLD.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ebiom.2023.104826>

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajpath.2018.11.008>

<https://doi.org/10.1111/acer.14299>



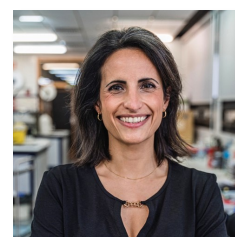
OLLI: I am Olli (Dr Olli Kärkkäinen), a senior researcher in drug toxicology at the School of Pharmacy, Uni-

versity of Eastern Finland. My research group is focused on understanding and predicting disease progression and treatment outcomes related to different exposures, alcohol use being the key one. Current projects in the alcohol field include finding metabolic fingerprint of alcohol use during pregnancy, understanding metabolic underpinning of progression of alcohol associated liver disease, and predicting responses to drug and placebo treatment for alcohol use disorder. Studies range from analysis of samples from *in vitro* and *in vivo* models to large epidemiological cohorts. Our main method is non-targeted liquid chromatography mass spectrometry metabolomics.

I also run a university spin-off company Afekta Technologies (www.afekta.com) that offer metabolomics analysis as service for both academy and industry, and participates in several academic consortia as SME partner (e.g., <https://www.3domics.eu/> and <https://human-dn.eu/>).

<https://doi.org/10.1111/acer.14806>

<https://doi.org/10.1111/acer.14485>



LUCIA: I am Lucía (Dr Lucia Hipolito) and I established my independent laboratory at the University of Va-

lencia in 2016. The DOREAL Lab, denoting "Dolor, Recaída y Adicción al Alcohol" (pain, relapse, and alcohol addiction in Spanish), is dedicated to comprehending the modifications arising from negative affective states, particularly those originating from pain-induced distress, which contribute to the susceptibility to compulsive alcohol consumption and subsequent relapse. Pain, negative affective states, and reward processes are delineated as opposing phenomena sharing neural substrates, being opioid signalling and neuroinflammation within the mesocorticolimbic system of particular interest for us. Sex is a pivotal variable in our investigations, and we consistently integrate the exploration of sex-based differences to fill the gap in the available data in females.

Furthermore, our pursuit of enhanced understanding in this domain aligns with our objective of identifying novel pharmaceutical targets or novel pharmaceutical dosage forms targeting specific brain areas, that will increase efficacy of the medications available nowadays. We aim to discern new strategies to selectively engage these targets, with the ultimate goal of developing

tailored pharmacotherapies for individuals affected by alcohol use disorder taking into account the emotional state and sex. Toward this end, we combine behavioural pharmacology and neurochemistry in rodents, cultured cells and studies in humans.

DOI: [10.1097/j.pain.0000000000002332](https://doi.org/10.1097/j.pain.0000000000002332)

DOI: [10.3389/fimmu.2021.689453](https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2021.689453)



MARCUS: I am Marcus (Dr Marcus Meinhardt) and since 2021, I am the head of the newly established research

group Translational Psychopharmacology, bridging preclinical research (Institute for Psychopharmacology) to clinical work (Department of Molecular Neuroimaging) at the Central Institute of Mental Health in Mannheim. I have a background in biotechnology and neuroscience with particular expertise in the field of preclinical behavioral neuroscience, molecular biology, and neuroimaging research methods. Additionally, I have intensive pharmaceutical industry experience, including preclinical target development, CNS pharmacokinetics and quality management. The core vision of my research is to promote preclinical research data quality and integrity in order to develop novel therapeutic approaches in the field of substance disorders (SUD), ultimately providing go/no-go decisions for clinical development. Techniques that I apply range from classical molecular & biochemical methods, innovative transgenic in vivo manipulations to state-of-the-art neuroimaging approaches (Positron Emission Tomography and Magnetic Resonance Imaging) in preclinical animal models for addiction and associated comorbidities.

What is the standout expertise that would make collaborating with your team in the alcohol field appealing?

ELE: If you want to test your hypothesis in organotypic and immunocompetent human models of liver disease and cancer or curious to hear more, then we are the right team for you! Even better if you want to target mitochondria!

OLLI: Expertise in metabolomics analysis with over 10 years expertise in alcohol related research. We do metabolomics on a wide array of samples, from biofluids like blood, urine and saliva, to different organs like brain, liver and heart, to samples from *in vitro* models.

LUCIA: We are a multidisciplinary team that integrates fundamental neurobiological research in animal models, encompassing behaviour and neurochemistry, with expertise in pharmaceutical technology.

MARCUS: Using various animals model of AUD; in-depth experience in psychedelic behavioral pharmacology; combining molecular, behavioral and neuroimaging methods in rodents

What is your top advice for new researchers starting their journey in this field?

ELE: Find many mentors and do not be afraid to ask questions to other researchers, colleagues, peers... Building the right supportive net-

work is essential to succeed (and more fun!).

OLLI: If you have the opportunity, explore different opportunities. For me the journey in metabolomics started out as one of the side projects I did during my doctoral research. Also getting perspective outside academia, in my case from CRO industry and start-up world, has been valuable for learning and opening up new possibilities.

LUCIA: I suggest embracing sharing, collaboration, and networking, not only with more experienced colleagues but also with younger ones. Opening up to different perspectives, learning from your peers, and exchanging thoughts not only improves your science but also makes the whole experience more enjoyable!

MARCUS: Networking is crucial for personal development and scientific discoveries

What emerging trends or methodologies do you envision shaping the future of alcohol-related research within your specific area of expertise?

ELE: I think that research in advanced and personalised models of disease (as supported by the recent FDA modernization act 2.0) will lead to extraordinary progress in translating more successfully preclinical studies into the clinic (I am a bit biased in my answer, but watch this space!).

OLLI: Biomarkers enabling more personalised treatment with ability to better understand why certain individuals are more likely to develop alcohol use disorder, alcohol associated liver disease or other alcohol use related diseases, and then to improve our ability to select the treatment most likely to help the individual in their disease.

LUCIA: The reproducibility of data and the translation of newly generated knowledge to clinical applications are crucial concerns that I think will shape the future of alcohol addiction research. Broadening our understanding of the diverse factors present in an individual, including those beyond the central nervous system, will provide a holistic perspective on alcohol use disorder. Simultaneously, advancements in

nanotechnologies targeting specific brain areas hold the promise of enhancing the efficacy and safety profiling of pharmacotherapies designed to treat alcohol use disorders.

MARCUS: Psychedelics will be a mayor player and will shape the future of alcohol-related research. •

ESBRA Early-career Investigators Mentorship Program

As you may know, on behalf of ESBRA, the ESBRA Early-Career Investigators & Communications Committee (ECIC) launched its Mentorship Program during the ESBRA Meeting in Graz in September 2023. This program is intended for all ESBRA members, regardless of their level of advancement in the scientific or medical career. ESBRA ECIC

established one program for young PIs and Senior postdocs and a second one for PhD/MD Student and postdocs. The ESBRA Mentorship Program has experienced remarkable success with the acceptance of applications from 27 dedicated mentors and 7 enthusiastic mentees. Notably, the ECIC has efficiently facilitated 5 successful mentor-

mentee matches, showcasing the program's commitment to fostering meaningful connections and professional growth within its community. If you need more information about this program, or if you want to apply as a Mentee or a Mentor, please visit the ESBRA ECIC webpage or contact us:

mentorship@esbra.com. •

	Program #1	Program #2
Who?	<p>Mentor Senior PI</p> <p>Mentee Junior PI Senior Postdoc</p>	<p>Mentor Junior PI Senior PI</p> <p>Mentee PhD/MD Student Postdoc</p>
How long?	1 year	1 year renewable
Commitment	<p>Virtual meetings every 2 months + One seminar in each other's laboratories</p>	<p>Virtual meetings every 3 months If possible : 1 face to face meeting One seminar in each other's laboratories</p>
Discussion Areas	<p>Networking Management of a lab/team Grant applications Recruitment tips Collaboration Technical advice Independence</p>	<p>Specific technical advice Development of independence and confidence in research Development of oral communication skills Provide motivational support Networking Job/Career opportunity Combination of clinical and research work</p>

Alcohol consumption is a global health concern, causing a wide range of problems, from public health issues to social and economic consequences. While research on alcohol's impact has grown substantially over the years, funding for alcohol research in Europe faces unique challenges when compared to the United States.

The Burden of Alcohol-Related Issues

Alcohol consumption and its consequences pose a significant burden on societies worldwide. From liver diseases, cancer, and cardiovascular conditions to social issues such as accidents, violence, and addiction, the range of problems associated with alcohol is vast. The economic cost of alcohol-related issues, including healthcare costs and lost productivity, is staggering. Because Europeans consume more alcohol than other regions, also the alcohol use related burden is high in Europe.

In the United States, research on alcohol and its associated problems has been funded more generously in comparison to Europe. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) is a prime example of this, dedicated to advancing our understanding of alcohol use disorders and supporting research that can ultimately lead to better treatment and prevention strategies. The budget for the NIAAA stands at **600.000.000\$/year** (<https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/management-reporting/fy-2023-financial-management-plan>) while the one for the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is above **1.5 Billions/year** (<https://nida.nih.gov/about-nida/legislative-activities/budget->

[information/fiscal-year-2024-budget-information-congressional-justification-national-institute-drug-abuse](#)). A recent report from the European Brain Research Area covering the period between 2007 and 2019 states that the total budget for addiction research (not only alcohol) is of **60.000.000€ (over 12 years, ~5.000.000€/year)**.

The Challenges of Funding Alcohol Research in Europe

Differing Cultural Attitudes: Europe's cultural diversity brings varying attitudes towards alcohol. This diversity can make it challenging to establish uniform policies and allocate resources for research on alcohol-related issues. In some European countries, alcohol may be more socially accepted, leading to reluctance in acknowledging the severity of the problem.

Fragmented Funding Landscape: Unlike the United States, where centralized agencies like the NIAAA oversee a substantial portion of alcohol research funding, Europe has a fragmented approach to research funding. Each country has its own health priorities and funding mechanisms, resulting in a lack of coordination and potentially unequal distribution of resources.

Lack of Comprehensive Research Initiatives: European countries often lack the comprehensive, long-term research initiatives focused on alcohol and its consequences that the United States has in place. In the U.S., efforts such as the Collaborative Initiative on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (CIFASD) have brought together experts from multiple fields to address critical research questions collaboratively.

Stigmatization and Misunderstanding: Stigmatization and misunderstanding of alcohol-related issues can hinder the allocation of funds for research in Europe. Unlike many other diseases, alcohol-related disorders are often perceived as self-inflicted, leading to bias in funding allocation.

The Power of Alcohol Industry Lobbies

The influence exerted by the alcohol industry lobby stands out as a pivotal factor shaping funding priorities for alcohol research across diverse countries. In many countries, including both Europe and the United States, alcohol producers have significant financial and political clout. These lobbies often seek to shape public policies, including those related to public health, alcohol taxation, and research funding. In the United States, a notable distinction emerges in the acceptance of funding from the alcohol industry compared to the European stance. In the U.S., it is widely acknowledged and, to some extent, deemed acceptable for alcohol research to be funded by the alcohol industry. This acceptance reflects the intricate relationship between business interests and research initiatives. Although this collaboration with the industry has sometimes led to questions over the credibility of the studies, even to extend of determination of the trial investigating health effects of moderate drinking in 2018 (<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-nih-alcohol-study-idUSKBN1JB2M4>), overall this collaboration has increased funding for science.

Conversely, in Europe, there exists a prevailing moral hesitation towards

accepting funding from the alcohol industry for research endeavors. European societies often emphasize the importance of maintaining independence and objectivity in scientific investigations, and the potential conflict of interest arising from industry-funded research is viewed with skepticism. This difference in perspective underscores the nuanced dynamics at play in determining funding priorities and the influence of alcohol industry lobbies on research agendas in distinct regions. One example of this hesitation was the ending of the industry funded European foundation for alcohol research (ERAB) in 2022.

In some instances, alcohol industry lobbies may advocate for policies that minimize the emphasis on alcohol's negative health effects or that deflect responsibility away from the industry itself. This can manifest in lobbying against stricter regulations, advertising restrictions, and increased taxes on alcohol, which would otherwise contribute to research funding. Such actions can hinder the efforts of researchers and public health advocates working to address alcohol-related problems.

Comparative Funding: Alcohol-Related Diseases vs. Other Diseases

When comparing funding for alcohol-related diseases with other diseases, disparities become evident. Many other diseases, such as cancer, heart disease, and diabetes, receive more attention and funding, even though alcohol consumption contributes significantly to their incidence and severity. In the field of brain disease, again, addiction is very low as compared to Alzheimer or Parkinson diseases (470.000.000€ and 300.000.000€ over 12 years respectively).

It is crucial to recognize the interconnected nature of diseases. Alcohol plays a role in the development and exacerbation of numerous diseases, making it essential to address the root cause through dedicated research funding. Unfortunately, despite the growing evidence linking alcohol to various health issues, funding for alcohol research in Europe often falls short compared to these other disease areas.

Conclusion

Securing funding for alcohol research in Europe is a complex

challenge due to cultural diversity, fragmented funding mechanisms, and a lack of comprehensive initiatives. This situation contrasts with the United States, where centralized agencies have provided substantial funding and support for research in this field. Additionally, when comparing alcohol-related diseases to other diseases, there is a significant disparity in funding allocation, even though alcohol is a major contributor to the burden of various health and social issues in Europe.

The power of alcohol industry lobbies further complicates the issue by influencing funding priorities and policies in different countries. European countries must work towards a more coordinated approach, destigmatize alcohol-related disorders, and prioritize research funding that is commensurate with the severity and impact of these problems, while also addressing the influence of powerful lobbies that may detract from the public health focus. By recognizing the importance of alcohol research and increasing funding, Europe can take significant strides towards better understanding and mitigating the consequences of alcohol consumption on public health and society as a whole. •

Sources:

<https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/management-reporting/fy-2023-financial-management-plan>

https://www.ebra.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/EBRA_MappingReport_2022-1.pdf

<https://nida.nih.gov/about-nida/legislative-activities/budget-information/fiscal-year-2024-budget-information-congressional-justification-national-institute-drug-abuse>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-nih-alcohol-study-idUSKBN1JB2M4>

Launching of the ESBRA Scientific Webinars

We are delighted to announce the successful 1st ESBRA Scientific Webinar, which transpired on November 7th, 2023. Renowned expert Professor de Timary graced the event as a distinguished speaker, sharing invaluable insights in the field with clinical, psychological and pre-clinical data from his lab on the role/impact of Alcohol Use Disorders on the gut-brain axis. We extend our

heartfelt gratitude to the 45+ individuals who registered for the webinar, showcasing a robust interest in advancing knowledge and research. The engagement was truly remarkable, with an impressive 30+ attendees actively participating in this enriching scientific discourse. This inaugural event marks the beginning of a series of enlightening webinars, and we look forward to fostering further collaboration and learning within the ESBRA community. •

European Association for the Study on Liver (EASL) congress 2024

The upcoming EASL Congress 2024 will take place in a hybrid format in the vibrant city of Milan from June 5-8. This meeting covers a wide range of liver research, including toxicity derived from alcohol. Important dates are:

- Abstract submission from November 1st, 2023, to January 16th, 2024
- Early bird registration from November 27, 2023, to April 2nd, 2024.

Applications to bursaries to support trainees, postdocs, nurses and AHPs can be made during the abstract submission process. This and more information can be found at <https://www.easlcongress.eu/>

Liver sinusoid meeting

The International Society for Hepatic Sinusoidal Research is accepting now abstracts for the upcoming Liver Sinusoid Meeting which will be held in Chicago from April 24 to 26, 2024. This meeting is focused in basic and translational research on hepatic cells biology, pathology and their interactions. Abstract submission deadline is January 31, 2024. More information can be found at <https://ishsr.net/>

Congreso de la Asociación Española para el Estudio del Hígado

The Spanish association for the study of the Liver will celebrate its annual meeting from February 14 to 16 in Madrid, covering diverse aspects of Liver Disease including those derived from the alcohol. More detailed information at <https://aeeh.es/microsite/49-congreso-anual-aeeh/>

Congrès International D'addictologie de L'Albatros 2024.

The international meeting on Addiction Congrès Albatros will be celebrated in Paris from June 4 to 6, 2024. This meeting covers a variety of topics from prevention,

treatment and risk and harm reduction focusing. Registration is already available until May 31. Information of the program, abstract submission and awards is detailed at <https://congresalbatros.org/>

Journées de la Société Française d'Alcoologie

The French Society on Alcohol Addiction is announcing its next meeting that will take place at the Ministère de la Santé on March 26 to 27, 2024. The theme of this year workshop is "Alcohol in France: Prevention, Treatment, Commitment" and will include both addiction and liver disease. Registration will open on December 11, 2023. All the information can be found at <https://jsfa.fr/>

GRC Translational Neuroscience of Alcohol: Integration of Basic and Clinical Research

The Gordon Research Conference in Translational Neuroscience of Alcohol will be held in Galveston (Texas) from February 11 to 16, 2024. This international scientific conference focused on advancing the frontiers of science through the presentation of cutting-edge and unpublished research, prioritizing time for discussion after each talk and fostering informal interactions among scientists of all career stages. Applications to attend and submitting abstracts are available until January 31, 2024. More information about this meeting and travel support is available at <https://www.grc.org/alcohol-and-the-nervous-system-conference/2024/>

Research Society on Alcohol 2024 Meeting

RSA is calling for program proposals and abstracts for their upcoming meeting. This meeting will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from June 22 to 26, 2024. Important dates and more information are available at <https://researchsocietyonalcohol.org/2024MEETING>

Additionally, RSA is also calling for nominations for all annual RSA Awards. The deadline for nomination is January 31, 6:00 PM CST and only RSA members may nominate. More information is available at <https://researchsocietyonalcohol.org/annual-awards>. •

Postdoctoral positions

Two postdoc positions are available at the Université de Picardie Jules Verne (Amiens France) - Groupe de Recherche sur l'Alcool et les Pharmacodépendances (GRAP, INSERM UMR 1247 - <https://grap.u-picardie.fr/>). Our laboratory uses animal models of binge drinking and alcohol addiction to define molecular mechanisms underlying psychobiological risks in alcohol use disorder.

We are looking for 2 enthusiastic and ambitious candidates to work on two funded projects (IReSP-INCa - Fund for fighting against addictions) aiming at deciphering the cellular mechanisms of the effect of Psilocybin and LSD on the decrease in alcohol consumption. We are combining a variety of state-of-the-art techniques, including behavioral pharmacology, *in vivo* fast scan voltammetry, calcium imaging (Inscopix), dopamine imaging, genetic silencing of specific genes and brain imaging (fMRI, DTI). The positions are available for a 2 years period.

How to apply:

- CV or NIH biosketch and links to 1-2 favored publications
- Cover letter
- Contact details for 2-3 references.

To apply, please email Pr Mickaël Naassila, Ph.D. (mickael.naassila@u-picardie.fr) and Dr Jerome Jeanblanc, Ph.D. (jerome.jeanblanc@u-picardie.fr)

Tenure-track positions

Junior Professor Chair (tenure track position) in Alcohol Addiction from neurobiology to new therapies (<https://grap.u-picardie.fr/junior-professor-chair-tenure-track-position-in-alcohol-addiction-from-neurobiology-to-new-therapies-695194.kjsp?RH=1422377599633>)

WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND CONTEXT

Located in the heart of Amiens, the University of Picardie Jules Verne (UPJV) has 1 200 researchers, 32 000 students, 36 laboratories (11 in health research) and 8 platforms. The UPJV is a human-scale university.

HOSTING STRUCTURE

The research group on alcohol & pharmacodependences (GRAP) is located in the University Centre on Health Research (Centre Universitaire de Recherche en Santé- CURS) in the University Hospital Centre (CHU) in the south of Amiens. The GRAP is an INSERM research unit (U1247) recognized by the national institute on health & medical research. It is composed mainly by researchers with teaching and hospital duties. The GRAP laboratory is the only one in France working exclusively on alcohol addiction and its comorbidities with translational approaches based on animal models of the disease and clinical trials. The main topic of the laboratory is the study of neurobiological bases of alcohol addiction and of the treatment responses using cutting edge techniques such as *in vivo* fast scan voltammetry, *in vivo* calcium imaging, *ex vivo* electrophysiology, brain imaging and fMRI. The lab has easy access to an animal care facility, a radioactivity platform and animal MRI platform. The GRAP is leading national research network on alcohol research and is integrated in national networks (FHU A2M2P, Institut de Psychiatrie, GDR 3557 Psychiatrie/Addictions). Numerous ongoing projects highlight the research dynamism of the laboratory (ADELY, RAPSICO, ANR PAPAUD, ANR Era-Net Neuron PsiAlc, SMARTBINGE, PREFRONTALC, ALPHA5ADDICT, HepatAlc).

TEACHING MISSION

BISA MASTER'S DEGREE, ADDICTOLOGY DIPLOMA

The recruited person will be able to teach, for example, in the BISA Master's degree (tracks

"Neurosciences" with courses on brain/synaptic plasticity, addiction, neuropharmacology, experimental models, ethics), in the Addictology University Diploma (DU d'Addictologie) and the future "surgery for experiments on rodents" training course for the authorization to conduct surgery in animal studies.

She/he will play an important role in the structuring of teaching, but also of research, around neuropsychopharmacology of addictions. Her/his interest in public health issues and neuropsychology will potentially allow her/him to build bridges with other departments and laboratories of the university. Knowledge of French is not mandatory for this position.

RESEARCH MISSION

GRAP-INSERM U1247 unit, CURS-UPJV

The call is open to all research profiles contributing to the understanding of the neurobiological bases of addiction and looking for new therapeutic intervention.

The recruited person will benefit from a reduction by 2/3 of teaching load in the phase preceding tenure (tenure will take place between 2027 and 2030) and from a financial support of 200 k€ in total for her/his research.

Contact : Mickael Naassila, Director of the GRAP-INSERM U1247 unit (mickael.naassila@u-picardie.fr)

Website of the host laboratory: <https://grap.u-picardie.fr>

Non-discrimination, openness and transparency

University of Picardie Jules Verne is committed to supporting and promoting equality, diversity and inclusion within its communities. We encourage applications from diverse profiles and we ensure to we will select via an open and transparent recruitment process.

University is an equal opportunity employer. •

Research highlights

Graphical summaries or mini-reviews of recent publications

Marcus Meinhardt

Semaglutide reduces alcohol intake and relapse-like drinking in male and female rats.

Semaglutide, also known as Ozempic[®] and Wegovy[®], is the first long-acting and orally-administered glucagon-like peptide1 receptor agonist approved for as type II diabetes and obesity treatment. This study provides insight into semaglutide's ability to regulate alcohol responses in rodents. In alcohol-drinking male and female rats, semaglutide decreases alcohol intake and prevents relapse drinking. Moreover, semaglutide prevents alcohol's stimulatory and dopamine-enhancing properties, implying that semaglutide attenuates the

rewarding properties of alcohol. On a final note, semaglutide together with alcohol enhances the metabolism of dopamine within the nucleus accumbens and that semaglutide binds to this area in alcohol-drinking rats of both sexes. These data support anecdotal reports of reduced alcohol intake in obese patients treated with semaglutide. We therefore argue that clinical trials should explore the possibility of semaglutide to reduce alcohol drinking in alcohol dependent patients, particularly those who are overweight. •

Aranäs C, [...], Jerlhag E. Semaglutide reduces alcohol intake and relapse-like drinking in male and female rats. *EBioMedicine*. 2023 Jul;93:104642

doi: 10.1016/j.ebiom.2023.104642



Semaglutide:

- Dose-dependently reduces alcohol drinking by 60%
- Prevents relapse drinking
- Attenuates alcohol's rewarding properties
- Acts within the nucleus accumbens to exert its effects

contacts & links



How to become a member of ESBRA:

<https://www.esbra.com/membership>

ESBRA calendar:

<https://www.esbra.com/calendar>

Job opportunities:

<https://www.esbra.com/job-announcements>

ESBRA awards:

<https://www.esbra.com/awards>

Further links:

<https://www.esbra.com/links>

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The Society's journal:

[Alcohol and Alcoholism](#)

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