3-years PhD Contract Offer

Assessing / characterizing the link between perceptual learning abilities and sensory profiles across neurotypical and autistic profiles

Summary:

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by deficits in social communication, restrictive and repetitive behaviors, but also atypical sensory responses. Aberrancies in sensory processing-circuits during early development could be the stepping-stone to a cascade of cognitive and social deficits, as well as contribute to the (vast) heterogeneity of the ASD condition. Recent electrophysiological studies have thus focused on individual analyses, revealing both inter-individual and intra-individual variability of sensory processing in ASD. Greater noise during sensory encoding could, in turn, affect the reliability of sensory representations, the generalization to different stimulus-categories and the discriminability from other stimuli within the same modality. Ultimately, such intra-individual variability in sensory encoding could negatively and significantly impact learning abilities, and the development of various cognitive processes in ASD. The goal of the PhD project is to evaluate how neurophysiological sensory and clinical profiles may explain perceptual learning abilities in children and adults with and without ASD.

Research team: iBraiN, UMR 1253, Université de Tours, Inserm; Team Autism and Neurodevelopment.

Supervisors: Marianne Latinus (iBraiN) and Teresa Iuculano (LaPsyDé, Paris)

Profile of the candidate:
- M.Sc. in Neuropsychology, Cognitive Neuroscience, Psychology or relevant discipline
- Previous experience with (i) neuropsychological testing, (ii) behavioral protocols in pediatric populations, and/or (iii) electroencephalography
- Coding (Matlab, R, Python) and solid statistical knowledge
- Adequate level in French required to interact with patients and their family
- Scientific and conversational English
- Team spirit, autonomy, rigor
- Organizational skills

3-years contract, 2100 euros / month gross salary
Starting date: 01/10/2024
Selection of candidates: beginning of July
Application on ADUM

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