

The Laboratory of Neurobiology of Depression and Aging under the umbrella of the Campbell Family Mental Health Research Institute chaired by Dr. Etienne Sibille is currently accepting applications for a postdoctoral position to investigate the behavioral and cellular mechanisms involved of depression and stress-related illness. The laboratory is part of a larger translational program in Depression and Aging at CAMH. The team is focused on using a translational approach to 1) Identify cell-specific molecular pathology of depression in human postmortem brain and rodent models of depression, 2) characterize biological vulnerabilities of specific cell populations (with a special attention to GABAergic neurons and astrocytes), 3) validate the new targets for antidepressant development using viral and genetic tools and 4) test new drugs for antidepressant properties. Studies will involve behavioral analysis of depressive-like deficits and cognition in chronic stress models, combining viral and transgenic approaches to alter gene expression in a region- and cell- specific manner, and analysis of effects of these manipulations at the cellular level (immunohistochemistry, western blot, cell sorting, laser-capture microscopy, qPCR). Preclinical studies will include assessment of novel targets and determining the antidepressant-like efficacy of newly developed drugs both at the cellular and behavioral level.

The candidate will work closely with Dr. Mounira Banasr who will be heading the Preclinical Unit of the Program as of June 2015. Additionally the candidate will report to the Program Chair- Dr. Etienne Sibille and will also work closely with other units in the group.

The ideal candidate would have a strong background in Neuroscience, neurobiology of disease or related fields, a record of scientific productivity, good oral and written communication skills. Previous experience with mouse behavior, mouse genetics, design of viral constructs, immunohistochemistry, microscopy, molecular biology (RNA and protein quantification assays) are preferred.

Highly motivated candidates (Ph.D. and/or M.D.) should submit a curriculum vitae, names of 3 references and a cover letter expressing their interest and a brief description of research experience. Send Information to Mehrab Ali, Campbell Family Mental Health Research Institute at Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), ON, CA. e-mail: mehrab.ali@camh.ca