

uk-french mental health biomarkers consortium

University of Oxford, February 3-4, 2025

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With thanks to the National Institute for Health Care and Research (NIHR) and
Fondation FondaMental for funding this event.

* if you do not want to be included in photos, videos, or social
media posts about this event, please notify the event organisers. *

Welcome to the UK-French Mental Health Biomarkers Consortium

The time has come to enrich current international classification systems with objective, measurable biomarkers to reduce the actual heterogeneity of categorical diagnoses, to consider overlapping psychiatric and somatic disorders, and to provide valid diagnostic entities that allow development of mechanism-based effective treatments for mental disorders.

In this context, French and UK scientific teams have made tremendous progress in the past decades to identify blood-based, brain imaging, and digital markers. These advances now need to be studied in existing databases and ongoing cohorts to be cross-validated with different modalities, and to be approved by regulatory agencies. We propose advancing innovations for mental disorders by creating a public-private partnership of French-UK universities, charities, pharmaceutical companies, and technology companies starting with blood-based based biomarkers. This bilateral effort should facilitate connections between researchers and we are confident that this consortium will greatly help us to work towards these goals.

We look forward to meeting with you at the start of February

Rachel and Marion



The Schedule

Monday 3th February

Saïd Business School, Park End Street

15:00 start of event

DAY 1: Introduction: goals of a French-UK mental health biomarker consortium &

15:00 Rachel Upthegrove and Marion Leboyer

Blood based biomarkers in mental health disorders: Why and what?

15:20 Genetic and immuno-genetic markers Marion Leboyer, Fr & James Walters, UK & early-career Boris Chaumette, Fr

15:40 Proteomics and multi modal inflammatory biomarkers Alexandre Boissonas, Fr & Golam Khandaker, UK & early-career Amalie Couch, UK

16:00 Immuno-Metabolic biomarkers Gildas Bertho, Fr & Rachel Upthegrove, UK & early-career Ophélie Godin, Fr

16:20 Refreshments break

16:40 Auto-antibody biomarkers Frederic Villega, Fr & Belinda Lennox, UK

17:00 Complement markers Corentin Le Mageresse, Fr & Jeremy Hall, UK & early-career Kim Kendall, UK (TBC) and Romain Rey, Fr

17:20 Infections Mireille Laforge, Fr & Maxime Taquet, UK & early-career Fabiana Corsi Zuelli, UK

17:40 Rachel Upthegrove and Marion Leboyer introduce the purpose of networking dinner. Project planning in subgroups. A seating plan will be devised for this.

17:45 end of talks

Networking Evening Dinner (seating plan to follow)

18:30 dinner is served at St Hilda's College, Rooftop Suite

Tuesday 4th February

Said Business School, Park End Street

09:00 start of talks

Intro Day 2:

DAY 2 / HARMONISING BIOMARKERS INFRASTRUCTURES: What and how?

Morning

09:00 Embracing Complexity: Dementias Platform UK, John Gallacher, UK; Jean-Charles Lambert, Fr

10:00-10:10 Feedback/discussion from Networking dinner

10:10-10:30 Overview of new infrastructure funding:

Mental Health TRC and Mental Health Mission, Rachel Upthegrove, UK and
Programme-project in Precision Psychiatry (PEPR PROPSY), Marion Leboyer, Fr

10:30- 11:00 Refreshments break

11:00- 11:30: Existing & Future Cohorts for Major Mood Disorders and Psychosis Marion Leboyer, Fr &
Graham Murray, UK & Mike Browning, UK

11:30-12:00 Sampling procedures & OMICS platforms Denis Vivien, Fr & Mary Ellen Lynall, UK

12:00-12:30 Big data warehouse: capabilities and advances Umar Saleem, Fr & Naomi Wray, UK

12:30-13:00 Advanced approaches to analysis (AI) Gregorio Ameyugo, Fr & Marcos Del Ponzo Banos, UK

13:00-14:00: Networking Lunch (external attendees arrive)

14:00-14:45 Presentation of the purpose of the UK-French Mental Health Biomarkers Consortium to
UK and French Officials and stakeholders, Hussein Manji

14:45-15:30 Presentation from UK-French Officials

15:30 Feedback/discussion external attendees and next steps

16:20: Closing remarks: Marion, Rachel and Hussein

16:30 event finishes

Getting around

Oxford train station to the Saïd Business School: 2 minutes on foot.

Oxford train station to the Mercure Hotel: 22 minutes on foot; 15 minutes by bus.

Saïd Business School to St Hilda's College: 28 minutes on foot; 20 minutes by bus.

St Hilda's College to the Mercure Hotel: 9 minutes on foot.

Please view [this website](#) for information about overnight parking in the city-centre (a short walk from the Saïd Business School or [this website](#) for overnight parking at [St Clements](#)).

After talks at the Saïd Business School on Day 1, guests are invited to evening dinner at St Hilda's College. The walk should take approximately half an hour; if you require a taxi, **please contact the event organisers as soon as possible.**

On your walk from the Saïd Business School to [St Hilda's College](#), on your right on New Road, you will see [Oxford Castle](#) which is one of the oldest buildings in Oxford. As you walk further up Queen Street, you will see the famous [Carfax Tower](#) on your left – a 12th century tower with impressive vistas. Oxford is twinned with Bonn, Germany; Grenoble, France; Leiden, Netherlands; Wrocław, Poland; Padua, Italy.



Further up the High Street, on your right, you will see Merton Street where the [Mercure Oxford Eastgate Hotel](#) is located. Back on the High Street you will see Magdalen College (pictured) and the Magdalen Tower where the college choir sings on May 1st at 06:00. St Hilda's College is situated just the other side of the River Cherwell.

Evening Dinner on Monday 3rd February

You should be greeted upon your arrival at St Hilda's college but if, for whatever reason, there is not anyone to welcome you, please notify the porter's office you are attending the UK-French Mental Health Biomarkers Consortium in the Pisa Rooftop Suite.

The Dinner Menu

Starter:

Pan Seared Scallops **or**

Red pepper hummus and crispy oyster mushrooms (VG)

Main:

Poached cod fillet in a fragrant broth **or**

Roasted sirloin of beef **or**

Crispy aubergine schnitzel (VG)

Dessert

St Hilda's chocolate fudge brownie **or**

Pear and ginger crumble

Please contact the event organisers as soon as possible **if you have any dietary requirements/ allergies/ access requirements.**

At the dinner there will be a seating plan, please sit at the place with your name.

The Pisa Rooftop Suite has a balcony that we can use (pictured) but please only access it if there is a member of college staff present.



Accommodation

The address of the [Mercure Hotel](#) where attendees will be staying is:

Mercure Oxford Eastgate Hotel

73 High Street

Oxford

OX1 4BE

Breakfast at the hotel is served between 07:00 and 10:00