

# Health, disease and environmental research: biology, tools and applications

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## THE NeuroNet CONSORTIUM: A NETWORK TO INVESTIGATE MOLECULAR MECHANISMS UNDERLYING NEURO-PATHOLOGIES

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Neurological disorders, affecting peripheral and central nervous systems, include a large range of diseases such as epilepsy, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, cerebrovascular diseases including stroke, migraine and other headache disorders, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, Parkinson's disease, autism spectrum disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, neuroinfections, brain tumors, trauma- and malnutrition-related disorders.

The research interests of a significant number of IBPM researchers converge on a common theme: the study of the molecular mechanisms underlying normal and pathological neural physiology to identify novel drivers of neurological disorders.

To formalize the interactions among scientists exploring the molecular mechanisms underlying the neuronal physiology and pathology, we decided to establish the **NeuroNet** consortium, which provides the integration and sharing of multi-faceted competences, combined with the use of different *in vitro* and *in vivo* model systems and molecular approaches. Our final goal is the identification of specific macromolecules (DNA, RNA and proteins) that may represent novel diagnostic/prognostic biomarkers and potential targets for different neuro-pathologies.

In addition, the development of this research area will create the conditions to further deepen the knowledge on two biological conditions -stress and inflammation- that, being at the basis of a large number of diseases, are currently receiving increasing attention.