

Description of the institution/ clinical capabilities

CHRU Montpellier-St Eloi is a university hospital with high -ranking clinical services and research activities. Montpellier, the capital of the region Languedoc-Roussillon in the south of France has an important historical background in the field of medicine; it is the oldest medical faculty still in activity.

The Unit of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry MPEA St Eloi offers general and specialized mental health care services with a catchment area of around 350 000 inhabitants. MPEA-St Eloi has a yearly annual active file of 2000 patients of all age ranges with 40% adolescents. The outpatient clinic activity is about 6000 consultations of child psychiatrists and psychologists a year; the setting also has 10 beds for adolescent inpatients and 38 places in day care units for children and adolescents of all age ranges. The outpatient clinic offers specialized services for children with ADHD and other externalized disorders and eating disorders. For patients with comorbidities or complex neurodevelopmental disorders the MPEA team has developed multidisciplinary assessment facilities. For adolescents with severe conduct disorder or other disruptive disorders, a dedicated network team (Philado) facilitates inter-institutional collaborations. We are partners of a multidisciplinary setting of 10 beds offering intensive combined educational and psychological/psychiatric interventions for adolescents with severe disruptive behaviors, for which medico-social support or foster care have failed to significantly impact problematic developmental trajectories. In addition, a project of a crisis unit of 5 beds is going to open this year for adolescents with acute conditions. This project involves the creation of a post-emergency assessment facility with joint adult and child psychiatrists to optimize health care trajectories and transitions from child and adolescent to adult psychiatry.

Scientific intererests

The research activities of MPEA are directed towards behavioral disorders such as ADHD/CD and other disorders involving behavioral undercontrol such as emotional dysregulation disorders and suicidal behaviors. Our global aim is to enhance connexions between research and clinical activities through research, network and associative activities and to implement evidence based therapeutics with a particular focus on children and adolescents with challenging behavioral and emotional disorders.

Pr Diane Purper-Ouakil, head of the child and adolescent unit (MPEA)-Hospital St Eloi is MD, PhD and Professor of Child and Adolescent psychiatry at the University of Montpellier. Her clinical and research expertise focuses on disruptive and emotional disorders and pediatric psychopharmacology. She is WP leader in other EU-projects (PERS, STOP, MATRICS, MILESTONE).

Overview of projects

Our team has experience in clinical trials and international collaborative clinical and psychopharmacologic studies. In particular, MPEA Saint Eloi is involved in four FP7 projects: PERS Paediatric European Risperidone Studies assessing risperidone in conduct disordered youth with normal IQ and STOP Suicidality Treatment Onset in Paediatrics examining determinants of Medication Related Suicidality, MATRICS, a project about biomarkers of conduct disorders and MILESTONE dedicated to improve transition between child/adolescent and adult psychiatry.

The unit also has previous experience with placebo-controlled pharmacologic studies (HYP-HOPE, Omega 3 study in ADHD) and with controlled assessments of cognitive/behavioural programs in ADHD and in children at high risk for bipolar disorder.

Technical capabilities: links and local units INSERM for genetics, neuroimaging.