

Call for applications for a 2-year post-doctoral position

Research areas: epidemiology, mental health, obesity, diabetes

Research project

A quarter of the adult population in industrialized countries experiences mental health problems during their lifetime. In France, it is estimated that mental health conditions contribute approximately 32% to the overall disease burden, yet do not receive sufficient research attention. Premature mortality among individuals with mental health conditions is often due to non-communicable physical illnesses (e.g., cardio-metabolic disorders) that have not been properly diagnosed or treated. Furthermore, in the Covid-19 pandemic context, the burden of mental illness is increasing at an alarming rate and will probably maintain that trend in the years to come.

The present research project aims to elucidate the role of mental health conditions as determinants of nutrition-related chronic diseases, such as obesity and type 2 diabetes, among French adults. It is a 2-year project whose overall objective is to develop and confirm an epidemiological mental multi-morbidity index, applicable as a predictor of the risk of obesity, type 2 diabetes and their comorbidity. The project encompasses the areas of biostatistics, epidemiology, nutrition, psychology, endocrinology, preventive medicine and public health. The results of this project are expected to guide clinical practice, primary and secondary prevention, epidemiological and intervention research and public health policy development.

The analysis will be based on the NutriNet-Santé study (<https://etude-nutrinet-sante.fr/>) which is a large-scale prospective web-cohort launched in France in 2009. The participants are adults aged 18 and over, recruited through an extensive multimedia campaign. To date, approximately 170,000 volunteers have been included in this web cohort. All the data needed for this research project have been collected and are presently available.

Contract: 24 months, full-time (1st year: fixed-term contract with USPN; 2nd year: fixed-term contract with INRAE)

Gross salary range: Between 46 200 € and 49 000 € commensurate with experience and USPN/INRAE salary grids

Funding: ANR-21-CE36-0003 (MEMORIES: <https://memories-anr.univ-paris13.fr/>)

Host laboratory (1st year): Equipe de Recherche en Epidémiologie Nutritionnelle (EREN), UMR U1153 Inserm / U1125 Inrae / Cnam / Université Sorbonne Paris Nord, 93017 Bobigny, France

Host laboratory (2nd year): Centre des Sciences du Goût et de l'Alimentation, UMR CSGA 1324 INRAE, Dijon, France

Start date: January 2023

Work assignment & objectives

- Data management, statistical processing and presentation
- Literature review and “benchmarking” of existing studies
- Development and confirmation of an epidemiological index of mental multi-morbidity as a risk factor for obesity and/or type 2 diabetes
- Production of empirical articles, systematic literature reviews and scientific presentations
- Participation in the dissemination of the results

Requirements

- A doctoral degree in biostatistics, epidemiology, or public health
- Very good knowledge of research methods, descriptive and inferential statistics (regression models, structural equation models, etc.), ease with SAS and/or R software, critical thinking capacities, excellent writing skills
- Very good knowledge of written and spoken French and English
- Team player and self-starter with excellent communication skills
- Knowledge/respect of confidentiality and ethics regulations related to the use of personal data

Supervision

- At EREN, the post-doctoral fellow will be mentored by Dr. Valentina Andreeva (senior researcher; Ph.D. in preventive medicine) and by Dr. Léopold Fezeu (senior researcher; M.D., Ph.D. in epidemiology)
- At CSGA, the post-doctoral fellow will be mentored by Dr. Stephanie Chambaron (senior researcher; Ph.D. in cognitive psychology) and by Dr. Marie-Claude Brindisi (M.D., endocrinology)

To apply

Please send the following documents by **November 30, 2022**: Detailed CV, a cover letter, and dissertation defense reports (if available) to: vaa2123@cumc.columbia.edu AND stephanie.chambaron-ginhac@inrae.fr (email subject line: Application Post-Doc ANR MEMORIES). Candidates in the final year of their Ph.D. studies with a scheduled defense before the end of the year are welcome to apply.

Selection

All applications will be carefully examined. Following an initial ranking, the most relevant applications will be retained and these candidates will be invited for an interview (via a videoconference) on December 13 and 14, 2022.