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Neurobiology of Diseases

Striatal and nigral pathology in a lentiviral rat model of Machado-Joseph disease

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Sandro Alves earned his PhD from the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Coimbra and Center for Neuroscience and Cell Biology of Coimbra in collaboration with the CEA, Institute of Biomedical Imaging (I2BM) and Molecular Imaging Research Center (MIRCen), Fontenay-aux-Roses, Paris, France. SA focused his PhD research on the "Modelling and Gene silencing in Machado-Joseph disease" under supervision of Prof. Luis Pereira de Almeida and Dr. Nicole Déglon, developing a lentiviral-based animal model of Machado-Joseph disease / Spinocerebellar ataxia type 3 and evaluating pre-clinical therapeutic strategies based on gene silencing - RNA interference (RNAi). His work has been published in peer-reviewed international research journals, such as Human Molecular Genetics, PLoS ONE and Annals of Neurology.
During his PhD, Sandro Alves has also made contributions to the fields of gene therapy and gene transfer in Huntington's disease, another polyglutamine disorder. His research interests mainly focus
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Presently, Sandro Alves has a post-doctoral position in the CRICM - *Centre de Recherche de l'Institut du Cerveau et de la Moelle épinière*, in the Unit INSERM U975, Neurology and Experimental Therapeutics in the hospital *la Pitié-Salpêtrière*, Université Pierre et Marie Curie- Paris VI, Paris, France, where he is currently working on the development of gene silencing strategies such as therapeutic approaches to counteract Spinocerebellar ataxia type 7.