Post-doctoral researcher in Sleep, neurodegeneration and mental health
Inserm UA 20 Neuropresage, Caen, France,
Start date : September 1st 2026

Research project:
Sleep disturbances are increasingly recognized as a key factor in brain aging and Alzheimer's disease (AD), emerging from the earliest stages of the pathology. While growing evidence suggests that disrupted sleep may contribute to the development of AD, its exact role and the factors that influence this relationship remain to be clarified.
This project aims to address this challenge by investigating how individual characteristics shape the links between sleep alterations and early AD-related processes.
The successful candidate will work with unique longitudinal datasets from two international cohorts, combining detailed sleep measures, cognitive assessments, neuroimaging, and blood biomarkers.
Using advanced statistical approaches, the postdoctoral researcher will explore the relationships between sleep and AD biomarkers, identify key moderating factors, and examine how sleep disturbances influence cognitive and emotional trajectories over time.
This project offers a stimulating research environment at the intersection of sleep science, aging, and neurodegenerative diseases, with strong international collaborations and access to rich, high-quality datasets.

Required skills:
- PhD in Psychology or neurosciences
- Past published research in the field of sleep, cognitive and brain aging
- Past experience in the processing and analysis of brain imaging data (EEG, MRI, PET)
- Proficiency in statistical analysis tools (e.g., R, SPSS, JASP) and brain imaging software (e.g., SPM, FSL, FreeSurfer)

Desired skills :
- Prior experience in harmonizing and analyzing multi-cohort data

Human skills :
- Collaborative, eager to pass on existing knowledge to local team members
- Strong intellectual curiosity
- Scientific rigor and critical thinking

Languages :
- English : fluent (required due to the international working environment)
- French : fluent as the candidate will also participate in data acquisition in older populations

Work environment:
The Neuropresage unit, led by Drs. Géraldine Rauchs and Gaël Chételat (https://neuropresage.fr/), is dedicated to **investigating the pathophysiological mechanisms underlying brain disorders and exploring lifestyle-based interventions.** Our multidisciplinary approach combines psychological and neuropsychological approaches with cutting-edge multimodal neuroimaging, EEG, and blood biomarkers, non-pharmacological interventions. Working within Neuropresage offers a **dynamic and interdisciplinary research environment, with strong expertise in translational neuroscience and access to state-of-the-art methodologies**.
Neuropresage is located within the **Cyceron imaging platform**, which provides state-of-the-art imaging facilities fully dedicated to research activities, including 3T MRI and PET scanners. The unit also benefits from the human investigation service, as well as comprehensive IT support. In addition, shared facilities are available for data management, communication, and health and safety.

Terms of employment:
- **Type of contract**: Full time

- Contract duration: 24 months
- **Expected start date**: 1 september 2026

With you career path, the Human Resources Department of the University of Caen can assess the gross monthly salary. Employment benfits such as reimbursement of public transportation fees and access to a variety of training opportunities are also included.

How to apply?

Please send the following documents in PDF to geraldine.rauchs@inserm.fr by May 31st 2026:

- A one-page motivation letter
- A CV in English (maximum 5 pages)
- Two recommendations letters, including the contact details of previous supervisors.

Selection procedure:

- First section based on CV. Priority will be given to candidates with prior research experience in sleep, cognitive and brain aging and strong recommendations letters.
- Interviews: shortlisted candidates will be invited to an online interview with Dr Géraldine Rauchs in June.

Note that incomplete applications will not be examined.

Contact details:

Informal inquiries about the project are welcome. Please feel free to contact Dr Géraldine Rauchs by email at geraldine.rauchs@inserm.fr