

Guy GINGRAS



Most of Guy Gingras's training has been focused on assessing the effects of visual deprivation early in life by performing animal psychophysical experiments in attempts to re-create the ophthalmologic disease often encountered in humans during their childhood.

During his master's studies at the University of Montreal, he showed that hamsters with experimentally-induced retinal inputs to the auditory cortex could see. Additionally, during his doctoral studies at Dalhousie University, he investigated the spatial localization abilities of amblyopic cats. Similarly to human amblyopes, the spatial localization deficits in the amblyopic animals increased with the spatial scale of the stimuli. Moreover, these deficits could not be explained by a loss of contrast sensitivity in the deprived eye.

During his first doctoral appointment at Wake Forest University, he investigated the differing impact of multisensory and unisensory integration on behavior. He then moved to the University of Pennsylvania to assess visual recovery, both behaviorally and physiologically (fMRI) following retinal gene therapy in two canine models (achromatopsia, Leber's Congenital Amaurosis).

Thanks to the support of Neurodis, he started a position in February 2010 in Dr. Howard Cooper's research team located in Lyon (Stem Cell and Brain Research Institute, INSERM U846) where he will investigate rescue of the vision in a non-human primate model. He is very grateful to the Neurodis Foundation for giving him the opportunity to move to France and continue his research into future clinical applications of gene therapy to find cures for blindness.

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