



# Melissa Salavrakos

## Current position

**Visiting Scholar** at the Applied Neuroimaging Statistics Laboratory – McLean Imaging Center – Harvard Medical School

*My research focuses on the effects of chronic excessive drinking on the brain, using different modalities from Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) to assess the relationship between symptoms, structure and function*

**PhD candidate** at the Institute of Neurosciences (IONS), Université Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium

## Employment History

**Psychiatry resident, Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc, Brussels, Belgium**

OCTOBER 2019 — OCTOBER 2024

*I will resume my residency program in Belgium in October 2025 and complete it in October 2026*

**Child and adolescent psychiatry resident, CHU Purpan, Toulouse, France**

NOVEMBER 2018 — MAY 2019

## Education

**Master of medicine [240 ECTS], Université Catholique de Louvain, Brussels**

SEPTEMBER 2014 — JUNE 2018

*magna cum laude*

**Bachelor of medicine [180 ECTS], Université Catholique de Louvain, Brussels**

SEPTEMBER 2011 — JUNE 2014

*cum laude*

## Awards and Grants

**Belgian American Educational Foundation (BAEF) Fellowship**

OCTOBER 2024

*This award is funding my current research at the McLean Imaging Center*

**Grant Medical Doctor Applicant to an MSc and a Ph.D**

OCTOBER 2020

from the Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique (FNRS), a national research funding agency that promotes and supports fundamental scientific research in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation

*This grant funds my PhD research activity*

**BASL Best Case Presentation 2021**

DECEMBER 2021

from the Belgian Association for the Study of Liver (BASL)

**Top 10 best master's theses in clinical research**

JUNE 2018

from Université Catholique de Louvain

## Details

34 Gorham Street  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138  
United States of America  
+1 (617) 216 6525  
[msalavrakos@mgb.org](mailto:msalavrakos@mgb.org)

## Nationality

Belgian and Greek

## Date and place of birth

January 8, 1994, Ixelles, Belgium

## Skills

- IBM SPSS Statistics
- Certification for the use of MRI scanner, Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc SIGNA™ 3T Premier (General Electrics) scanner

## Languages

- French : native
- English : fluent
- Greek : basic

## Extra-curricular activities

- BAEF Boston Boat Captain
- Organizing committee member for “the walk for mental health”, 2021
- International Volunteering Activities  
2014 : Elephant Nature Park, Thailand  
2013 : Percy Junor Hospital, Jamaica  
2012 : Chitwan Medical College, Nepal
- Half marathon runner

## Publications

Mennicken B, Petit G, Yombi JC, Belkhir L, Deschietere G, Germeau N, [Salavrakos M](#), Moreau G, Nizet L, Cool G, Luts A, Billieux J, de Timary P. [Psychological distress among hospital caregivers during and after the first wave of COVID-19: Individual factors involved in the severity of symptoms expression](#). Psychiatry Res Commun. 2022 Jun.

[Salavrakos M](#), de Timary P, Ruiz Moreno A, Thissen JP, Lanthier N. [Fructoholism in adults: The importance of personalised care in metabolic dysfunction-associated fatty liver disease](#). JHEP Rep. 2021 Nov.

[Salavrakos M](#), Leclercq S, De Timary P, Dom G. [Microbiome and substances of abuse](#). Prog Neuropsychopharmacol Biol Psychiatry. 2021 Mar.

[Salavrakos M](#), Piessevaux H, Komuta M, Lanthier N, Stärkel P. [Fibroscan Reliably Rules Out Advanced Liver Fibrosis and Significant Portal Hypertension in Alcoholic Patients](#). J Clin Gastroenterol. 2019 Nov.

## Talks and posters

### **Preliminary Investigation of Links between Cognitive Psychiatric Symptoms and Cortical Thickness in Alcohol Use Disorder: Insights from Normative Modelling**

Poster presentation

APRIL 2025

Society of Biological Psychiatry, Toronto, Canada

JANUARY 2025

McLean Research Day

### **Visual perspective-taking experiment in patients with alcohol use disorder**

AUGUST 2023

Poster presentation

Social cognition workshop "From self-knowledge to knowing others", Brussels

### **Case study: Diffusion-Weighted Magnetic Resonance Imaging (DW-MRI) correlates with the evolution of motor function during alcohol withdrawal**

MAY 2022

Poster presentation

GREPACO (Groupe de Réflexion en Psychopathologie Cognitive), University of Lausanne, Switzerland

### **Psychiatry seminars for general practitioners**

Invited talks in Belgium

December 2021: Questions on Addictions

March 2022 and March 2023: Questions on Pharmacology

September 2022: Questions on Personality Disorders

### **The importance of personalised care in metabolic dysfunction-associated fatty liver disease**

DECEMBER 2021

Contributed talk

Belgian Association for the Study of Liver (BASL) Winter Meeting, Wallonia Conference Center, Mons, Belgium

### **Borderline personality disorder in teenagers**

JANUARY 2019

Contributed talk

CHU Purpan, Toulouse, France

### **Fibroscan is a useful and reliable tool to rule out advanced liver fibrosis and severe portal hypertension in alcoholic patients**

FEBRUARY 2018

Contributed talk

Belgian Week of Gastroenterology, 30th Edition, Antwerp, Belgium