David Thonnard

Neuroscientist
Data-analyst

July 26, 1985 (36)
Leuven, Belgium
+32 498 07 56 51
thonnard.david@gmail.com
linkedin.com/in/Thonnard
github.com/Thonnard/

About Me

I am a neuroscientist and data scientist with a biomedical and psychological background. For the past 8 years, I have been conducting preclinical work studying cognitive flexibility. During this period, I have also developped a wide array of statistical and data-related skills. More recently, I have been combining academia with industry.

Languages

- Dutch
- English
- French
- Spanish
- German

Hard Skills

Laboratory Skills

- Neurosurgical lesions
- Neurosurgical implantations
- IHC/nissl stainings
- Brain perfusion/extraction
- Injections (IP/SC/IM)
- Optogenetics
- Flowcytometry

Work Experience

currently — **Research Scientist** — UCB
In-vivo pharmacology - neurodegeneration - gene therapy

2020-2021 — **QA Analyst/Consultant** — Johnson&Johnson
Quality Assuruance in the European Distribrution Center (EDC) for Medical Devices (Johnson & Johnson) as consultant for Altran - Capgemini.

2013-2020 — **Neuroscientist** — KU Leuven - Brain and Cognition
Preclinical brain research. Main topic: cognitive flexibility. Lab of Prof. Dr. Rudi D'Hooge.

2008 — **Lab technician** — University Ghent - Dep. of Virology
Quantification of cellular immunological memory after measles vaccination through intracellular cytokine detection using flowcytometry. Lab of Prof. Dr. Geert Leroux-Roels.

Education

currently — **Advanced Master in Artificial Intelligence** — KU Leuven
Engineering and Computer Science

2014-2020 — **PhD Neuroscience** — KU Leuven
Thesis: Pharmacological mechanisms and telencephalic interactions involved in neurocognitive flexibility

2008-2013 — **Master of Science in Theoretical and Experimental Psychology** — Ghent University
Thesis: Jouw pijn is mijn pijn, maar... "Does it matter if you're black or white?".

2005-2008 — **Bachelor in Biomedic Laboratory Technology, Pharmaceutical and Biological Techniques** — University College - Ghent
Thesis: Quantification of cellular immunological memory after measles vaccination through intracellular cytokine detection.

Grants

2014 — Doctoraatsbeurs Strategisch Basisonderzoek — IWT/FWO

Conferences & Presentations

08/2017 — **European Behavioural Pharmacology Society** — Heraklion - Greece
Perseverative behaviour in low-dose MK801-treated mice

07/2017 — **RIKEN Brain Science Institute** — Tokyo - Japan
Impaired reversal learning after NMDA-induced lesions in the PFC-HC network

05/2017 — **Belgian Society for Neuroscience** — Ghent
Effect of MK801 on learning and memory

07/2016 — **Federation of European Neurosciences Societies** — Copenhagen - Denmark
Cognitive flexibility: Modulation of prefrontal-hippocampal network

Certificates and Courses

03/2020 — Introduction to SAS — FLAMES

01/2020 — Python for Machine Learning — VSC - KU Leuven

01/2020 — Python for Data Science — VSC - KU Leuven

01/2020 — Scientific Python — VSC - KU Leuven

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Behavioural Testing

- [x] Morris Water Maze
- [x] T-Maze
- [x] Rotarod
- [x] Open Field
- [x] Elevated Plus Maze
- [x] Touchscreen visual discrimination
- [x] Odor discrimination

Computer Skills

- [x] R
- [x] SAS
- [x] Python
- [x] SQL
- [x] Stata
- [x] SPSS
- [x] Matlab
- [x] C
- [x] LaTeX

Driver's license: B (2004)

Soft Skills

10/2019	Matlab programming introduction	VSC - KU Leuven
10/2019	Linux scripting	VSC - KU Leuven
12/2016	Non-parametric statistics	Leuven Statistics Research Centre
07/2014	FELASA C - Laboratory Animal Sciences	Biomedical Sciences - KU Leuven
03/2010	Vaccinations in the 21st century	Ghent University
02/2008	The tumor micro-environment: new insights and therapeutic perspectives	Ghent University
03/2007	Viral infections during pregnancy and in children. Disease and bio-safety in the lab	Ghent University
2007	Kjeldahl method	Ghent University
2004	Business Management	OLVL Highschool

Publications

2021 **Effects of orbitofrontal cortex and ventral hippocampus disconnection on spatial reversal learning.**
Thonnard, D., Callaerts-Vegh, Z., D.'Hooge, R.
Neuroscience Letters, 135711 DOI

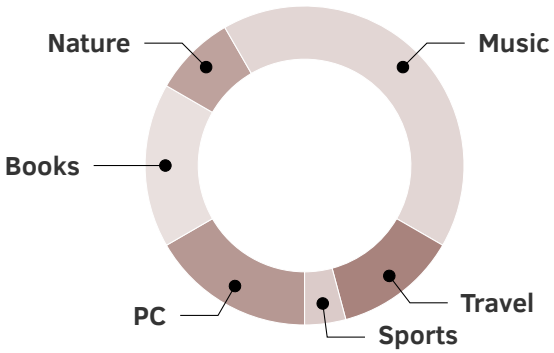
2020 **Comparison between touchscreen operant chambers and water maze to detect early prefrontal dysfunction in mice.**
Van den Broeck, L., Hansquine, P., Sierksma, A., Thonnard, D., Vegh-Callaerts, Z. & D'Hooge, R.
Genes, Brain and Behavior, e12695 DOI

2019 **Differential effects of post-training scopolamine on spatial and non-spatial learning tasks in mice**
Thonnard, D., Callaerts-Vegh, Z., D.'Hooge, R.
Brain Research Bulletin, 152, 52-62 DOI

2019 **NMDA receptor dependence of reversal learning and the flexible use of cognitively demanding search strategies in mice**
Thonnard, D., Dreesen, E., Callaerts-Vegh, Z., D'Hooge, R.
Progress in Neuropsychopharmacology & Biological Psychiatry, 90, 235-244 DOI

2011 **Oorzaken en gevolgen van een verhoogd glucose metabolisme bij kanker**
Thonnard, D., Vermeulen, S.
Tijdschrift van de Belgische Vereniging van Laboratorium Technologen, 38(1), 17-23 DOI

Extra-curricular Activities



September 24, 2021 David Thonnard