



David Thonnard

Neuroscientist
Data-analyst

- July 26, 1985 (35)
- 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 developed 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 **QA Analyst/Consultant** Johnson&Johnson
Quality Assurance in the European Distribution 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

- 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
- 10/2019 Matlab programming introduction VSC - KU Leuven
- 10/2019 Linux scripting VSC - KU Leuven
- 12/2016 Non-parametric statistics Leuven Statistics Research Centre

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Behavioural Testing

- ✓ Morris Water Maze
- ✓ T-Maze
- ✓ Rotarod
- ✓ Open Field
- ✓ Elevated Plus Maze
- ✓ Touchscreen visual discrimination
- ✓ Odor discrimination

Computer Skills

- ✓ R
- ✓ SAS
- ✓ Python
- ✓ SQL
- ✓ Stata
- ✓ SPSS
- ✓ Matlab
- ✓ C
- ✓ LaTeX

 Driver's license: B (2004)

Soft Skills



07/2014	FELASA C - Laboratory Animal Sciences	Biomedical Sciences - KU Leuven
03/2010	Vaccinations in the 21 st 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

