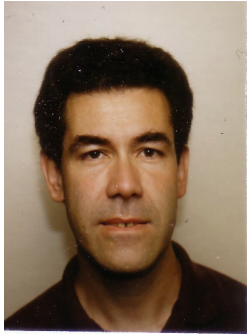


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**Research Activity:**

My research activity addresses the plasticity mechanisms that underly food intake regulation in the dorsal vagal complex (DVC), i.e. a multifunctional reflex and integrative centre of the autonomic nervous system. Based upon my previous studies about neuronal renewal in the adult olfactory system, I have conducted a staged investigation demonstrating that the DVC is a neurogenic niche in adult rat brain. I am currently addressing the role of DVC neurogenesis in satiety adaptation and the chemical messengers that mediate in vivo modulation of DVC niche. I also develop a graft-application of neurospheres for post-lesional regeneration of peripheral nerves.