The Fribourg-based Competence Center joins the European-wide Human Brain Project and starts playing in the big leagues.

Joining the European Human Brain Project sets a milestone for the Swiss Integrative Center for Human Health’s (SICHH) activities. It demonstrates the ability of the center to help advance research at the highest level with skills integration in a small, yet efficient structure. SICHH stands alongside with prestigious European research institutes including the Oxford University and national players such as EPFL and ETHZ.

Started in 2013, the Human Brain Project (HBP) is a research program dedicated to helping advance neuroscience, medicine, and computing. It is one of the two largest scientific projects ever funded by the European Union. The HBP bridges the scales of brain research from the level of genes, molecules, synapses to the whole brain and human behavior.

The research group led by Dr. Lavinia Alberi Auber, Lead of Neurology at SICHH, contributes to the “Neurodegenerative Virtual Brain (TVD-NDD)” work package driven by the world-renowned Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin. The research consortium will develop a brain atlas mapping molecular pathways associated with dementia. Combining imaging with functional genomics, the atlas represents a reference point for clinicians and researchers in the development of new therapeutics addressing neurodegeneration.

Thanks to the preclinical dementia research ongoing in Dr. Lavinia Alberi Auber’s research group and the high-throughput infrastructure available at the center, SICHH contributes to advancing research about Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias.

About the Swiss Integrative Center for Human Health SA

SICHH is a unique technological competence center in the health sector. Its purpose is to step up the innovation capacity of Swiss companies by conducting research projects and proposing integrative research and development (R&D) solutions. Based in the blueFACTORY innovation park, SICHH boasts high-tech platforms in the fields of genomics, proteomics, materials characterization, digital health and complex data analysis. Acting as a bridge between academic research and the private sector, SICHH supports innovative players in the fields of medtech, biotech, foodtech and all other areas related to human health.
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