Principal Investigator Grant

Project
«Elucidation of the role of brain barriers on fluid drainage and antibody access in Alzheimer's disease»

Granted amount  CHF 281'988
Starting date  1.4.2022
Duration  36 months

Main applicant
Dr. Steven Proulx
Group Leader
Theodor Kocher Institute
University of Bern
Freiestrasse 1
3012 Bern

New insights in Alzheimer's disease

Recent research findings have ignited a debate about how fluid and waste products clear from the central nervous system (CNS). However, the studies that have stimulated these discussions largely ignored the presence of anatomical barriers that separate the CNS into multiple compartments.

We have developed mouse models that allow for visualization of these barriers and blood and lymphatic vessels during microscopic imaging. Using these “reporter mice”, we here will determine how fluid and molecules circulate in the spaces surrounding the brain and how fluid and molecules are cleared from the CNS. In a mouse model of Alzheimer’s Disease (AD), we will examine the effects of the developing pathology on the fluid circulation and evaluate the response to anti-amyloid antibodies.

The knowledge gained in this proposal will improve our understanding on AD pathogenesis and may lead to more optimized drug delivery for Alzheimer’s patients.