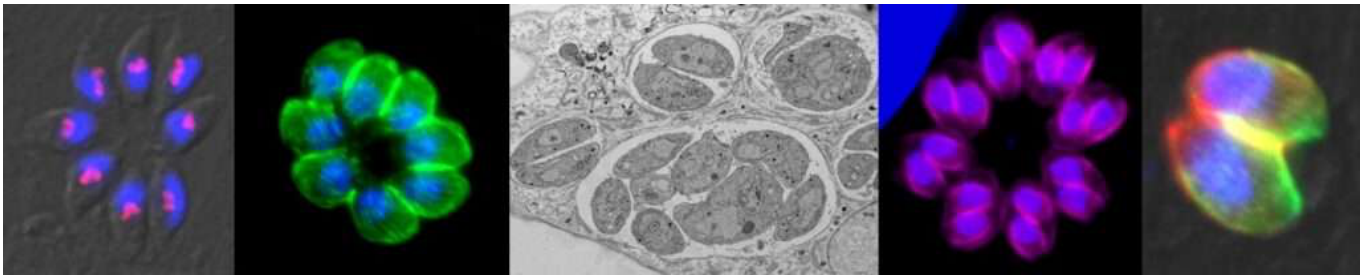
Postdoc (M/F) in molecular and biochemical parasitology (*Toxoplasma gondii*)

A **24-month post-doctoral position** starting on **January 2026** and funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR) is available in the in the Laboratory of Pathogens and Host Immunity (LPHI) under the supervision of Sébastien Besteiro (https://lphi.umontpellier.fr/research-teams/cell-biology-of-apicomplexan-parasites/besteiro/).

Our research: *Toxoplasma gondii* is a ubiquitous intracellular parasite that can cause severe pathology, known as toxoplasmosis, particularly following reactivation in immunocompromised hosts or through congenital transmission. Currently, few drugs are available to treat acute toxoplasmosis, and notably, no drug exists to eliminate the encysted, persistent form of *T. gondii*. We are investigating the parasite's unique metabolic features that could be targeted to develop specific inhibitors.



Job description: this funded position aims to identify novel parasite-specific proteins that contain an iron–sulfur (Fe–S) cluster cofactor, perform their in-depth functional characterization, and uncover new potential drug targets. The role will involve the use of molecular tools for genetic engineering of transgenic parasites, advanced imaging techniques, and the implementation of novel chemoproteomics protocols. Parasite culture and molecular laboratory techniques are an integral part of the daily routine.

Qualifications: a PhD in microbiology, cell biology, or biochemistry; strong knowledge in biochemistry and/or parasitology; excellent organizational and problem-solving skills; the ability to lead an ambitious research project; strong written and oral communication skills in English; the ability to work both independently and collaboratively; and a strong motivation to pursue an academic career.

The LPHI research lab: this is a multidisciplinary Research Unit affiliated to the CNRS (UMR 5294)/INSERM (UA 15)/University of Montpellier, dedicated to the study of infectious processes and host immune response. Research groups at the LPHI conduct projects ranging from the *in vitro* study of basic biological processes to the global analysis of field samples and the mathematical modelling of cellular interactions.

The University of Montpellier: established in 1220, it is one of the oldest universities in the world. With more than 50,000 students, 73 affiliated research facilities and 15 cutting-edge technical platforms, it is recognised as one of the leading Universities in France.

Montpellier: a vibrant Mediterranean city rich in arts and culture, located between the sea and a beautiful countryside that offers a great range of hiking options!

Submit a CV, a statement of research interests, and two reference contacts to sebastien.besteiro@inserm.fr. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.