

Dr. Jourdi has a B.Sc. in Biology from LAU and an M.Sc in Morphology from the AUB - Faculty of Medicine. He also has a “Maîtrise” in Biochemistry and a “Diplôme d’Études Approfondies” in Molecular & Cell Biology from the Montpellier University, France. His Ph.D. is in Medical Sciences – Molecular Neurobiology and Neuropharmacology from the Brain Research Institute, Niigata University, Japan, where, in Professor Hiroyuki Nawa’s laboratory, he examined how glutamatergic synapses respond to trophic factors and inflammatory cytokines. This work was central to recognizing prenatal inflammation as a causative factor in postnatal autism and schizophrenia. Later, Dr. Jourdi was Senior Research Scientist at the University of California Irvine (UCI) and Assistant Professor for Research at the University of Southern California (USC). During this time, he collaborated with Professors Gary Lynch, Christine Gall and Michel Baudry to develop AMPAkinines, a class of cognitive-enhancing and neuroprotective drugs. This work culminated in FDA authorizing AMPAkinines’ clinical use. At Florida State University (FSU), in collaboration with Professor Mohamed Kabbaj, he revealed the superiority of AMPAkinines as acute antidepressants compared to ketamine, the only FDA-approved fast-acting antidepressant. With Professor Andre Fenton at New York University (NYU), he developed a unique animal model for schizophrenia’s cognitive deficits and revealed the underlying molecular and biochemical bases. Dr. Jourdi received several awards at Niigata University (the prestigious Japanese Government Ph.D. Fellowship), UCI (the Thuris Corporation Postdoctoral fellowship) and USC – Neuroscience Ph.D. program and FSU – Faculty of Medicine (awards for best teaching junior faculty member in both institutes). In addition to teaching graduate-level and medical neuroscience at USC and FSU, respectively, he taught clinical anatomy at the faculties of medicine of FSU and University of Balamand (UOB). At UOB, Dr. Jourdi is involved in university-wide revision of teaching curricula; he also serves as the Biology and Environmental Sciences Division chairperson.