

Lay Summary

BRAIN UK Ref: 21/015

Neurobiology of inflammation-driven behaviour changes

Professor Jonathan Cavanagh, University of Glasgow

Symptoms and behaviour change, such as depressed mood, fatigue, social withdrawal, increased pain sensitivity and cognitive impairment, are important due to the burden of disease they impose at the individual patient level extending through to the societal level. Further, they have a negative impact upon treatment adherence, response, and clinical outcomes across a variety of disorders. Importantly, they also relate directly to conditions such as major depressive disorder, as well as post viral fatigue. The contemporary experience with SARS-CoV2 being a case in point. Our aim is to understand the biological mechanism that link inflammation to these symptoms. So, we will explore human brain tissue to determine whether the changes we see in mice are similar to those in humans.