The Psychopharmacology and Emotion Research Laboratory explores the ways in which the brain processes emotional information and how this is affected by neurotransmitters such as serotonin, noradrenaline and dopamine. As well as telling us about normal brain function, this may help us understand emotional disorders such as depression and anxiety and how these may be helped by drug treatments that affect neurotransmitter function. We attempt to understand how conventional treatments may work, how mechanisms underlying treatment efficacy interact with psychological treatments, and also whether we can predict new candidate treatments for depression and anxiety using these experimental medicine models.

Please contact us for further information and to discuss potential projects

7T fMRI project exploring mechanisms of SSRI treatment in young people – Marieke.Martens@psych.ox.ac.uk

A project exploring pharmacological modulation of reward-effort decision making in relation to apathy and anhedonia: Catherine.harmer@psych.ox.ac.uk

A project focused on modulation of the orexin system and the interplay between depression and insomnia: Catherine.harmer@psych.ox.ac.uk