



## Visiting Speaker

**Michelle Moerel**

Maastricht Centre for System Biology

### **“An ultra -high field fMRI exploration of the human auditory cortex”**

The layers of the neocortex each have a unique anatomical connectivity and functional role. Their exploration in the human brain, however, has been severely restricted by the limited spatial resolution of non-invasive measurement techniques. We exploited the sensitivity and specificity of ultra-high field fMRI at 7 Tesla to investigate responses to natural sounds at deep, middle and superficial cortical depths of the human auditory cortex. We compared the performance of a T2\*w (GE-EPI) to a T2w (3D GRASE) fMRI dataset, and observed that while encoding and decoding analyses profited from the coverage and sensitivity of GE-EPI, the 3D GRASE dataset achieved higher specificity in topographic maps. We next examined sound processing throughout the depth of primary (PAC) and non-primary auditory cortex, and results suggest that a relevant transformation in sound processing takes place between middle and superficial PAC possibly serving as a first computational step towards sound abstraction.

Date: Monday, September 25, 2017

Time: 11:00 am

Location: Fisher Room ,  
Robarts Research Institute