

 FULL TITLE	Protection against ageing in the retina
ACRONYM	PRO-AGE-RET
COORDINATOR	Prof. José Sahel (INSERM, Paris, France)
CONTRACT NUMBER	QLK6-CT-2001-00385
START DATE/END DATE	01/01/2002 / 31/12/2004
FUNDING INSTRUMENT	EC: FP5 RTD Project
KEY WORDS	Age related macular degeneration; photoreceptors; inner retina; retinal glanglion cells; neuroprotection of retinal cells;
SUMMARY	Neurodegenerative diseases of the eye affect a large proportion (14 million in Europe) of the growing ageing population. Blindness or severe impairment of vision results from several processes such as ischemia or gene mutations in various groups of diseases e.g. retinal dystrophy, diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma, involving primarily photoreceptors (PR) or the inner retina, especially retinal ganglion cells (RGC). Age-related macular degeneration (ARMD), the primary cause of blindness in Europe is a multifactorial condition, and both environmental and genetic mechanisms are probably affecting PR. To respond to this major societal health problem, we intend to promote a coordinative project between current and future national and industrial research programs on neuroprotection of retinal cells. The overall objective of this neuroprotection project is to reduce the proportion of blind persons among the ageing population in Europe and abroad.
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BUDGET	2 600 000 €
PROJECT WEB-SITE	---