

ECNP Research Internship 2016

10th-21st October, 2016

Intern: Nóra Eszlári

PhD student,

Semmelweis University, Department of Pharmacodynamics

Host: William Deakin

Professor of Psychiatry,

The University of Manchester, School of Biological Sciences, Division of Neuroscience and Experimental Psychology, Neuroscience and Psychiatry Unit

My research topic is the genetic background of rumination, in the wider context of genetics of depression.

During my internship, I gained the opportunity to extend and deepen my research focus, doing analyses on detailed and high-quality data on rumination, depression, lifetime life events, candidate genes and neuropsychological tasks. I could also exchange experiences on genetic analysis methods and softwares with colleagues.

I could frequently discuss my plans and results with professors William Deakin and Rebecca Elliott.

During these two weeks, I could get an insight into the work and approach of the whole laboratory, by taking part in the lab meetings, listening to an invited speaker's presentation, and getting help for my own work from the lab members.

In the weekly held lab meetings, I got acquainted with others' research topic and recent results in detail, and after presentation of these results, we discussed important related issues and open questions in the group, which yielded a really fruitful thinking, and thus we could give useful advices to the presenter. I actively took part in these discussions, and, because I have worked a lot with psychological questionnaires, I could also give suggestions related to this methodology.

During one of these meetings, I also benefited a lot from the professors' ideas, suggestions and advices about my present analyses, so this group-level discussion really enriched my plans and perspectives about my internship work.

The most inspiring experience for me was the department's great emphasis on the neuropsychological tasks in every project. I consider this approach very conducive in the understanding of cognitive and affective aspects of psychiatric disorders.

I am really looking forward to continuing this collaboration with the Neuroscience and Psychiatry Unit of The University of Manchester.

