

I was very honoured to be selected for the ECNP Internship Programme at the Department of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry of the Hospital Gregorio Marañón, IISGM, CIBERSAM, in Madrid.

During my two week stay I participated in the diagnostic and clinical assessments of participants in the different research projects, focused mainly on the study of paediatric and adults patients with psychosis, affective disorders, autism spectrum disorders and other childhood-onset mental disorders.

I have also visited the inpatient unit and attended some of the specific outpatient clinics (early onset psychosis, psychiatric genetics, autism spectrum disorders and youth in foster care). I also participated in all the teaching activities of the Department, including General Psychiatry and CAP Grand Rounds, Seminars and Journal Clubs.

I was very happy to have meetings with the seniors and junior researchers of the Research Team and discuss the main lines of research. We collaborated closely together and identified several potential areas of cooperation.

It was a life changing experience to see how a State-of-the-Art institution works and seeing how many scientists from different backgrounds work together to achieve the best results for the wellbeing of our patients.

I am eager to apply all the things I learned and the insights of my educational experience in my field of research in Greece and explore ways of collaborating with my research mentors in Madrid.

All the colleagues of the Department were extremely friendly and eager to explain me their behind the scene secrets of success, especially the Scientific Director of the Research Group Dr Covadonga Martínez Díaz-Caneja, the Director of the AMITEA Program Dr M. Parellada and of course the Head of the Department Dr Celso Arango. Their support and help during my stay in the unexpectedly rainy Madrid cannot be described with words.

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