

Research internship report – Liana Kobylinska

Between the 8th and 19th of May, 2017 I have been in Prof. Martien Kas' lab, at the University of Groeningen, as part of the ECNP Research Internship programme. During this time, I have visited the animal facility and I have assisted in behavioural testing in mice. I have learned more about specific behavioural tests in animals, such as the three chamber test, the social conditioned place preference test, the social recognition test and the resident intruder test. Moreover, I have had the opportunity to learn more about the mobile phone app designed by Prof. Kas and his team and to set-up a collaborative research protocol using the app in order to check the correlations between certain personality traits and the behaviours monitored by the application. In one of the days, I have visited the Rintveld children and adolescents eating disorders unit, in Utrecht. This is a subject that interests me as we do not have specialized multi-disciplinary eating disorders units in Romania yet, so Prof. Kas was very kind to arrange this visit. As one of my goals during the internship was to learn how to conduct a metaanalysis, Prof. Kas set up a meeting between me and prof. Lucianne Groeninck, who was very helpful and also registered me for a one day metaanalysis workshop that was being organized at her department on the 19th of May. Moreover, we have set-up a plan to conduct a metaanalysis together with prof Groenick on oxytocin and other neuropeptides levels in biological fluids of children with autism spectrum disorders.

Overall, it was a truly remarkable experience, out of which future collaborations and projects seems to have emerged. I look forward to continuing the work started during the internship and I thank you very much for this great opportunity!

