

ECNP Research Internship 2018/2019

17.09- 30.09.2018

Intern:

Joanna Ewa Sowa

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Host:

prof Filippo Drago

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Catania, Italy

My name is Joanna Ewa Sowa, I am a PhD student from the Institute of Pharmacology, Polish Academy of Sciences. I was selected for the ECNP Research Internship at the Department of Clinical and Molecular Biomedicine, University of Catania, under the supervision of Prof. Filippo Drago and his research team.

Prof. Drago and his team were incredibly welcoming, and they let me participate in almost everything they did during my two weeks stay. I visited their animal facility and followed their ongoing experiments about the role of dopamine D3 receptor in schizophrenia symptoms. I actively participated in genotyping of D3 receptor knock-out mice and became familiar with Temporal Object Recognition test (TOR). I also attended their lab meeting where they presented and discussed data about their new project related to the development of an animal model of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Moreover, I also had an opportunity to learn Western Blotting in another project regarding the role of antidepressant drugs and Transforming-Growth-Factor- β 1 (TF- β 1) pathway as a common pharmacological target in Alzheimer Disease and depression.

During my PhD program, I mostly perform experiments using the whole-cell patch-clamp technique. Therefore this internship was a great opportunity to extend my scientific background and learn more about behavioral test (Temporal Object Recognition) and molecular biology techniques (genotyping, Western Blot).

I would like to thank ECNP and prof Drago for giving me the opportunity to participate in ECNP Research Internship that expanded my expertise, and hopefully, I am looking forward to collaboration in future projects.

