

ECNP RESEARCH INTERNSHIP 14-29/01/2019

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Host Institution
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I am Nickoleta Delivanoglou, PhD student and I was honored of being selected by the ECNP Educational Committee for an ECNP Research Internship at the University of Frankfurt under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Andreas Reif and Dr. Sarah Kittel-Schneider.

During my internship I had the opportunity to follow the project of Viola Stella Palladino, PhD candidate who is working on the creation of cellular models and functional investigation of PARK2 Copy Number Variants (CNVs) associated with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). In this project human dermal fibroblasts obtained from donors' skin biopsies (both controls and patients) were reprogrammed to HiPSCs and then induced to differentiate into dopaminergic neurons (both immature and mature). I had the chance to be introduced theoretically and practically to the applied protocol. Furthermore, I had the opportunity to be involved in the protocol optimization, testing different growing/expanding conditions. Furthermore, I was involved in other projects currently running in this laboratory and I worked with all the members of the laboratory having an overview of their work (RNA extraction, qPCR, protein assay, Western Blot). Additionally, I had the opportunity to follow Dr. Kittel-Schneider's clinical practice at the University Hospital, which was a unique experience. Finally, I actively participated in the scheduled laboratory activities such as attending talks of other professors, the laboratory safety class and the laboratory meetings.

I would like to thank Prof. Dr. Reif and Dr. Kittel-Schneider for welcoming me at their department and laboratory. Also, I would like to heartily thank Ms. Palladino not only for sharing her expertise and valuable knowledge but also for being more than welcoming and helpful to me! Lastly, I would like to thank Ms. Auer and Ms. McNeil for their good spirit of collaboration.

