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## ECNP Research Internship 2019/2020

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**17.09.2019 – 03.10.2019**

**Intern**

**Natalia Malikowska-Racia  
Jagiellonian University Medical College  
Department of Pharmacodynamics  
Faculty of Pharmacy  
Cracow, Poland**

**Host**

**prof. Filippo Drago  
University of Catania  
Department of Biomedical and Biotechnological Sciences  
Catania, Italy**

Prof. Drago and his collaborators were incredibly hospitable and let me participate in all their ongoing studies. I followed their experiments performed on several genetically modified mice including D3-receptor and dysbindin-1 knock-out mice. I was engaged in several analyses they routinely perform e.g., genotyping, Real-Time PCR, ELISA. Because I usually work in *in vivo* behavioral models, the internship provided me with new knowledge and skills. I also learned new methods of brain tissue collection. I participated in lab meeting, where I presented and discussed the results of my recent studies. Above all this, the most interesting part for me was getting introduced to a new project expected to develop a new and useful animal model of PTSD, which is under the supervision of Dr. Torrasi and Prof. Leggio. I learned how they determine the vulnerability to develop a PTSD-like phenotype in mice by using the startle response, which I have never performed before. This knowledge will be surely very useful in my future research.

During the intern, I meet many talented researchers, with whom I exchanged many ideas and extended my scientific background. I am looking forward to applying the gained knowledge and to collaborating on future projects.

In the end, I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Drago and ECNP for providing me with the great opportunity of the internship. I want to thank all colleagues with whom I was collaborating, especially Prof. Leggio, Dr. Torrasi, and Mr. Laudani, for their guidance and support.

