

ECNP Research Internship 2017-2018 10 - 24 January 2018

Host: Dr Luisa Minghetti in Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Department of Cell Biology and Neuroscience, Rome, Italy

Intern: Anna Solarz Institute of Pharmacology, Polish Academy of Science Kraków, Poland



I had a great pleasure to be hosted by Dr Luisa Minghetti as an ECNP intern. The reason why I applied for the placement in this particular team was their extensive experience in neuroinflammation topic based on *in vitro* models. I am confident I made the right choice, because everyone in the lab made a huge effort to introduce me to their research and I was able to obtain key related skills - the main goal of my internship.

During two weeks of internship I had a great opportunity to learn from the best specialists how obtain and maintain primary microglial cell cultures. Moreover, the training was fully comprehensive, it also included microglial activation procedure as LPS treatment and Nitric Oxide Assay based on Griess reaction. Additionally, I had an opportunity to learn in more details how to obtain and stimulate organotypic hippocampal slices cultures. Time spend in the lab gave me more analytical experience in interpreting ELISA results of inflammation biomarkers. Due to the fact that the team has experience in variety of techniques I also had a chance to get familiar with purified cultures of oligodendrocyte progenitor cells, whole-cell *patch-clamp* technique and fluorescence video imaging.

The main benefit of the internship is that I got 'know-how' knowledge to run experiment combining neuroinflammation and *in vitro* techniques in itself from begin to an end. I strongly recommend ECNP internship to anyone who wants to get an outstanding opportunity to become a part of foreign team and gain new experience and scientific contacts. I am gratefully thankful to all team members for a warm welcome and sharing the knowledge with me, especially for Dr Luisa Minghetti, Dr Maria Antonietta Ajmone Cat and Dr Roberta de Simone.

