

During my ECNP internship I was positioned at the 6A ward in the psychiatric clinic of AKH under the Prof Siegfried Kasper's supervision. Immediately I got involved into everyday work and participated in morning rounds and morning meetings. Over the course of 2 weeks I was actively establishing professional and personal contacts with colleagues who were working on the clinic and involved in various research projects. On the research side I learned what kind of research is being done on the clinic and where the major focus is being put for the near future. Also I had a chance to take a look at the methodology's of the projects and learn ways to acquire proper funding. On the practical side I had a rear opportunity to watch ECT and see benefits it has on pharmaco-resistant patients. Also I learned some of the logic being used when prescribing psychiatric medication, and how to more effectively utilize additional laboratory and genetic workup in order to optimize dosage of the drugs. The knowledge I acquired will be most useful in my future research endeavors and in my current everyday practice. The network is soon going to be put in full use as myself and my mentor from Serbia made an understanding with Prof Kasper to come and get together again in Vienna to start collaborating long-term in the field of research on various subjects. Other contacts are already proving fruitful for current research I am doing back home.

I encourage future ECNP interns to actively engage in work the institution they are in and try to make as much contacts they can for the time given. This is one of a kind opportunity to learn with high potential of advancing their academic and professional career and development.

