ECNP Research Internship Report

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Host: **Prof. Gitte Moos Knudsen**
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During my ECNP Research Internship I had the opportunity to attend the Neurobiology Research Unit (NRU) of Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, chaired by prof. Gitte Moos Knudsen.
As a behavioral pharmacologist and neuroscientist involved in preclinical research, I found extremely interesting the possibility to get involved in translational neuroimaging studies and clinical research on cutting-edge antidepressant therapies and women-related depression vulnerability.

I was warmly welcomed by all the NRU staff during the weekly meetings and I had the opportunity to share ideas and perspectives with PhD students, technologists, post-doc research fellows and group leaders. Thereby, I gained a new, fresh insight into relevant topics in the field of clinical neuropsychopharmacology, besides expanding my knowledge into theoretical principles of multimodal neuroimaging and different radiotracers.
From the very first day, I was involved in the ongoing research, such as the PND1 project, which aims at identifying early biomarkers of vulnerability to postpartum depression, by combining neuropsychological assessment, epigenetics and biochemical analyses with multimodal neuroimaging. I participated in data collection in relation to a caesarian section, in a cheerful and cooperative environment. In addition, I attended both clinical and preclinical experimental PET scans, with interesting practical remarks on selective serotonin receptor radioligands, kinetic modeling and pre-processing of PET images.

Prof. Knudsen, with her charismatic presence, was kindly open to nice discussion on current projects and future plans. I am grateful to her for hosting me at NRU, and to ECNP for providing me this opportunity of professional and personal growth, which will be inspirational of excellent neuropsychopharmacology research to my future work.