

**ECNP Research Internship 2018**  
**05.11.2018 – 16.11.2018**

**Hosting Mentor:**

Prof. David A. Slattery, PhD  
Universitätsklinikum Frankfurt,  
Klinik für Psychiatrie, Psychosomatik und  
Psychotherapie  
Group of Translational Psychiatry  
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**Intern:**

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My participation in the ECNP Research Internship at the group of Translational Psychiatry under the supervision of Prof. David Slattery was a great pleasure and a unique opportunity to increase my professional level, building a basis for my future scientific career in the field of neuropsychopharmacology. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Prof. David Slattery for his hospitality and the warm welcome to his laboratory.

The main goal of this internship was to get an introduction into the field of behavioural neurobiology and to learn how to perform animal tests to study depression- and anxiety-related changes. I had a chance to observe the following behavioural tests: open-field, light-dark box, social fear conditioning and PPI in mice. One more valuable test I was interested in is the forced swim test. Prof. David Slattery meticulously explained to me how to score the video from rat forced swim tests and how to catch the difference between swimming, climbing and being immobile.

There was also an opportunity to learn how to accurately dissect the brain in order to preserve all the structures from being disrupted. Additionally, I observed how to prepare brain slices using the cryostat and practiced to perform brain cutting as well as to recognize and dissect different brain regions.

I would like to notice the incredible guidance of Dr. Aet O'Leary in the animal house for the duration of the internship and to thank Dr. Florian Freudenberg for the introduction to the lab safety rules.

Besides studying new behavioural tests, I was honoured to be a part of a large international research community and it was a great pleasure to participate at a seminar dedicated to ADHD.

Along with the new knowledge, the internship provided me with intellectual inspiration and a new feeling of enthusiasm for my work.

In addition, I would also like to emphasize that the unique opportunity provided by ECNP for junior scientists would definitely be a wonderful way to build international collaboration networks.

