

ECNP RESEARCH INTERNSHIP 2019

HOST

Prof. David A. Slattery, PhD
Group of Translational Psychiatry
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INTERN

Katarine Fereshetyan
Neuroscience laboratory
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I want to express my deepest gratitude ECNP Educational Committee for considering me an eligible candidate for ECNP Research internship program.

Within the framework of this project I took a two-week internship (Nov.23-Dec.6) at the Department of Translational Psychiatry, Psychosomatics and Psychotherapy under the supervision of Professor David A. Slattery. During these two weeks I had an opportunity to participate in several behavioral tests, e.g. continuous performance test, prepulse inhibition test and fear conditioning test. As well as I scored and analyzed video recordings of forced swimming test and social interaction test for mice and rats. These entire tests enrich the battery of behavioral tests which is used by our research group for evaluation and validation of autism rat models.

I also gained the skills of mice' brains cryosectioning with further staining by Golgi method. It was fully new method for me and I hope that in the closest future we will be able to implicate it in our laboratory and use in line with paraffin embedded tissue sectioning method. As the final stage of tissue staining I have practiced visualization of eGFP and MAPII double stained primary culture of neuronal cells and did single cells dendrite tracing by FijiJ software.

I had an opportunity to attend to laboratory meetings, which are regularly organized each week with all group members. At one of these meetings I presented our group project and had an interesting and useful for me discussion. Additionally we had a paper discussion with Professor David Slattery and his colleague, which showed me the necessity and importance of paper discussions for young researches, so far as it helps to improve the skills of formulation of a scientific project main idea and proposal.

I would like to thank Professor David Slattery and his group for the warmest welcome and time devoted to me. These two weeks were full of new knowledge and experience for me, which I will surely implement in my laboratory.