

GSCN Travel Award: Participation Report Europhysiology 2018, London (UK)



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Venue: The Queen Elizabeth II Centre, Europhysiology 2018

Place and Date: London (UK), September 14 – 16 September

First of all, I would like to express my thanks to the GSCN for giving me the chance to attend the Europhysiology 2018 annual meeting in London last September. This was my first time attending a big international event where for the first time I had the opportunity to present my own research project in the form of poster communication, exchange ideas with other scientists and attend many interesting talks.

Europhysiology 2018 is the first of a series of meetings co-hosted by the three biggest physiological societies in Europe: the Physiological Society, the Scandinavian Physiological Society, the Deutsche Physiologische Gesellschaft and the Federation of European Physiological Societies. It encompasses a variety of research topics revolving around physiology, from neuroscience to cardiac and respiratory physiology, etc. For young scientists and early stage researchers, it provides a platform for learning and gaining new insights into the field, but also for improving networking and presentation skills.

From the many different symposia, I personally enjoyed the neuroscience presentations, such as the talk of Juan Burrone (King's College London, UK) about their work on axo-axonic synapse plasticity and the role it plays in the stabilization of network activity during development or the talk of Süeda Uludag Tunçak (Uskudar University, Turkey) about the effects of valproic acid on empathy and social preference during development, assessed using an autism model in rats.

Not only was I impressed about the contributions in the field of neuroscience, there were many symposia on different topics, which were very interesting for me. My personal favorites were the research symposia about thermoregulation and hibernation of humans in the field of space exploration. Prof. Dr. Dipl.-Geol. Hanns-Christian Gunga (Center for Space Medicine and Extreme Environments Berlin, Germany) provided the audience with new insights about how human core body temperature changes under terrestrial or space conditions. Together with his team, a non-invasive heat flux device was developed and tested on astronauts during rest and exercise periods on Earth and in space. In his talk, he highlighted the need for further studies in this topic because of its relevance for the future of space exploration and human performance in space.

As this was my first event as a presenter, I benefited the most from the poster sessions because of the possibility to practice my networking and presentation skills and exchange ideas and queries with other scientists. I enjoyed having the possibility to approach new people from all over the world and learn about their research in a very easy-going way. My poster presentation on iPSC derived nociceptors as a human neurotoxicity assay generated some interest from even people quite distant methodically gave me some valuable perspective and input on my work.

Altogether, this was a very exciting experience that allowed me to progress as a scientist. I am very thankful for the support from the German Stem Cell Network, which enabled me to attend this conference.