

## **From genes to circuits in health and disease in health and disease**

4-7<sup>th</sup> February 2019, Bangalore, India

First time in India. Arriving late at Bangalore airport, someone was already waiting to pick me up. A very friendly driver welcomed me, and we started our small trip to the guest house of the National Center for Biological Sciences (NCBS). On the way, I got introduced to different car brands existing in India, best ways to commute in the city and got many tips about delicious dishes to taste within the next days.

Arriving at the reception of NCBS, I got very detailed instructions about my stay and a starter pack with many snacks and liquids. Jetlag has done its job and I was fully awake looking forward to exploring the city. Finally, the sun came out and I was on my way to the city center. The city was starting to get lively and I could already sense a very special way of communication between drivers-honking. Later I realized that people didn't honk because they were angry or in a hurry but to establish their presence. And it was working greatly.

I returned to the NCBS for the registration and after the introductory talk of the organizers, we had a campus tour. I had no doubt that the location of this conference was ideal. The campus was full of trees, grass and even a small pond, creating a very nice feeling of calmness. At the same time, you could see posters with scientific work published in high impact journals, making it clear that the quality of science was very high.

The next 3 days were full of neuroscience. Heads of leading labs across the world presented a mixture of published and unpublished data, which led to very interesting and lively discussions. In this blend were added selected talks from junior scientists and very exciting poster sessions. The motivation and enthusiasm were kept up with tea-coffee breaks under the bright sky, which encouraged further discussions and networking.

What made this meeting remarkable was the diversity of the participants from all around the world, the high-quality scientific program and the approachability of all participants. Additionally, the local organizers made amazing efforts for this conference to be perfect. A big part of the success of this meeting belongs to the local students that were always present and ready to help.

I would totally recommend EMBO workshops and I would like to thank the GSCN for giving me the opportunity to attend.

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