

Dear professors,

I am Slaven Erceg, PhD from Valencia, Spain. I was participating in EBBS Congress in Greece, where I have presented a poster. It was my great pleasure and honour to participate in the 41st Meeting of the European Brain and Behaviour Society (EBBS) which was take place from September 13-18 2009 at the Rodos Palace Hotel in the island of Rhodes, Greece.

I am working in field of neural differentiation of human embryonic stem cells. We are developing the new protocols for differentiation of human embryonic stem cells toward neural lineage cells to use them in a cell therapy for different neurodegenerative disease animal models. Recently we developed the first protocol for generation the cerebellar cells from human embryonic stem cells. These cells could be useful in the treatment of different types of cerebellar ataxias. European Brain and Behavioural Society Congress was focused on presenting the new behavioural test for small animals, promotion of education of scientists in Neuroscience, the advancement of research in the nervous system and the increase in public awareness for brain functions and diseases of the nervous system. This congress was very beneficial for our lab and specially for me to learn the new techniques and test for ataxias. Our future project will be to transplant generated cells in transgenic model of cerebellar ataxia to asses whether these cells are capable to restore already lost motor function in transgenic animals. The congress was a opportunity the exchange the informations between European scientists interested in the relationship of brain mechanisms and behaviour. The symposia and plenary lectures of the meeting was of the highest scientific calibre, and a most enjoyable cultural and social program was held. Focal events of the meeting was the poster sessions where students and young scientist from all over Europe and the Mediterranean countries had a chance to present their work, exchange scientific information, meet with senior scientists and establish long-standing friendships and collaborations. Concretely, I had the opportunity to establish the possible collaboration between our group and the Department of Psychology, University of Rome "Sapienza", Rome, Italy and Faculty of Motor Sciences, University of Naples "Parthenope", Naples, Italy. They have already established the rat model of cerebellar lesion with the all learning test related to working memory to test the cerebellar function, exactly what we need for the testing in vivo function of our cells. Also we made the contacts with the Mairead Diviney and Sean Commins from NUI Maynooth, Maynooth, Ireland to establish the possible collaboration in a field of hippocampal lesions and their function in a spatial memory.

To resume, the congress was very useful for our future investigations and I am very grateful to European Science Foundation for financial support. I am sending also the copy of my travel expenses: (return air ticket MADRID-RHODES) 380 e and return train ticket (VALENCIA-MADRID) and Congress registration (160 e).

Sincerely

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