



EPA VIRTUAL GAINING EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME REPORT

On the virtual placement at the “Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Dept. of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy”

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By “Dr. Gamze Gürcan”

REPORT:

I am Gamze Gürcan, an early career psychiatrist from Turkey. It has been an honour for me to participate EPA Gaining Experience Programme at the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Ludwig-Maximilians University (LMU), under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Peter Falkai.

Dr. Mike Rüb organized the virtual programme with excellent presentations of the research groups. The programme included research topics in many different fields as neurodegenerative diseases, cognitive behavioral psychotherapy, machine learning, non-invasive brain stimulation, effects of exercise, biobanking and autism spectrum disorder. Although it was bad that the in-person program was canceled due to pandemic, it was a chance for us to be involved virtually.

My virtual placement was good. I felt welcome at the hosting institution. All of the young scientists were very friendly, and they tried to be descriptive and helpful while presenting their studies to us. After the presentations, a time was allocated for us to discuss the topics and we received explanatory answers to our questions. It was quite impressive to learn about the presented studies not only with their results, but also with their research processes step by step. I think that they have valuable contributions to me about planning a scientific study. It was excellent to meet and share the experiences with psychiatrists working in different clinics, even in the virtual environment. I didn't encounter any problems during the virtual placement. I didn't receive any personal task. Information about the organization, dates and contents of the meetings was sufficient. I feel thankful to Dr. Mike Rüb for the informative e-mails and reminders. Prof. Dr. Falkai attended the meetings and made valuable contributions. It was a pleasure to meet him.



An important advantage of attending meetings virtually was that I could continue with my current schedule, but I consider it was a disadvantage not being able to observe the clinics with their daily practice.

I would like to thank Prof. Dr. Peter Falkai, Dr. Mike Rüb and all researchers who present their studies, for being helpful and friendly, asking and valuing my fields of interest and studies. I am so grateful for attending this programme, it was so helpful to improve my vision and global perspective.