



Travel Grant Report

First of all I would like to express my gratitude towards ERNDIM for giving me the opportunity to receive a training in England.

I visited the lab of Biochemical Genetics at St James's University Hospital, Leeds, UK from 09/10/2017-13/10/2017. The primary purpose of my visit was to train in the analysis and interpretation of amino acid profiles by ion-exchange chromatography with emphasis on short programmes for monitoring patients with PKU and MSUD.

Our laboratory is the only laboratory of Biochemical Genetics in Cyprus and serves the whole population (about 1 million). Our laboratory has been analysing plasma amino acids by HPLC for the last 25 years. We have recently bought an ion-exchange amino acid analyser and we are going to change to this method by the end of the year. One of the advantages of the ion-exchange method is that it will enable us to run urine samples and also short programmes for monitoring patients.

During my stay I was able to see the analysis of plasma, urine and CSF amino acids using the Biochrom analyser and the interpretation of the analytical results. I was given useful information and practical tips regarding ion-exchange chromatography and this will facilitate the establishment of this method in our laboratory.

During my visit I was also able to observe other methods used for the diagnosis of inborn errors of metabolism, for example oligosaccharide analysis, and compare them to the ones used in our laboratory. I also had the opportunity to participate in lab meetings during which the interpretation of results was discussed.

I found this training very useful and it will contribute to the smooth transition from the one method to the other.

I very much enjoyed my time in Leeds and I would like to thank everyone in the lab especially Robert Barski, Ian Sherratt and Janet Mitchell for being very friendly and helpful during my stay, and above all Dr M. J. Henderson for hosting me in his lab for this training.

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