

Dear ESHG,

As part of the ESHG International Mentorship Programme, I had the opportunity to visit Prof. Jean-Laurent Casanova's team at the Imagine Institute in Paris. This visit was a highly valuable and unforgettable experience for me, both scientifically and personally.

Since my PhD studies and research interests focus on genetic susceptibility to mycobacterial infections, primary immunodeficiencies, and interferon responses, visiting a world-leading laboratory in this field was a very special opportunity for me. Seeing how the topics I work on are approached at an international level, listening to different research perspectives, and being part of this scientific environment gave me an important new perspective.

During my visit, I was welcomed very warmly and supportively by the laboratory team. Meeting the team members, attending laboratory meetings, and learning about the ongoing research projects were highly instructive for me. In particular, the approach of integrating genetic, immunological, and functional data in the evaluation of susceptibility to infectious diseases was very inspiring for my own research.

Throughout this process, I had the opportunity to gain new knowledge in areas directly related to my PhD thesis and current research. I believe that the scientific approach I observed in the laboratory will guide me in developing my future studies.

In addition, receiving the ESHG Mentorship Award as part of the programme was a great source of happiness and honour for me. This award will remain a very valuable experience that has increased my academic motivation and encouraged me for my future work.

Overall, this mentorship process not only allowed me to gain scientific knowledge but also enabled me to become familiar with an international research environment, establish new connections, and take important steps toward possible future collaborations. I believe that the experiences I gained will make significant contributions to both my research projects and my academic development.

As a small suggestion regarding the programme, I believe it could be helpful if the host laboratory/team were informed in advance by ESHG in more detail about the programme process, visit dates, and expectations from the mentee. I believe this could contribute to a more planned and efficient process for both the host team and the mentorship participant.

I would like to sincerely thank ESHG for their support throughout this process, the Imagine Institute team for kindly hosting me, and my professors for always supporting me.

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