

## **Report on Mentorship Experience at The Manchester Centre for Genomic Medicine**

From June 26 to July 4, I had the privilege of participating in a mentorship program at the Manchester Centre for Genomic Medicine, one of the leading clinical genetics units in the UK and Europe. Under the guidance of Professor Siddharth Banka, a clinical geneticist and scientist renowned for his expertise in genomic medicine and rare genetic disorders, the experience proved to be both enriching and insightful.

During my time there, I got involved in various clinics, including endocrine, ophthalmology, and neurodevelopmental disorders, which gave me a wide-ranging view of clinical practice. One particular highlight was encountering patient with Borjeson-Forsssman-Lehmann syndrome (BFLS), a rare genetic condition that highlighted the complexities of genomic medicine.

Beyond clinical rotations, I also had the chance to participate in professional development activities like the British Association of Dermatologists' annual meeting. At this event, I explored my interest in skin genetics and gained valuable insights from Professor Banka's engaging presentation.

The Manchester Centre for Genomic Medicine impressed me with its collaborative atmosphere, where medical specialists and researchers work together seamlessly. This environment not only ensures comprehensive patient care but also drives innovation in genomic medicine.

Currently, as part of Georgian team, I am collaborating with Professor Banka and his team on an article evaluating DNA methylation epigenatures for diagnostic testing. We are investigating the potential of using DNA methylation arrays as a primary diagnostic tool for individuals with neurodevelopmental issues, congenital anomalies, or growth disorders.

In conclusion, my mentorship experience at The Manchester Centre for Genomic Medicine was both enriching and influential. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn from Prof. Banka and his team, and I look forward to applying these insights to the patients and their families in my country, while continuing to grow in my medical career.

A big thank you to the European Society of Human Genetics (ESHG) for providing me with the exceptional opportunity to participate in the mentorship programme. The comprehensive support, including travel, accommodation, and registration for the ESHG conference in Berlin 2024, was immensely valuable.

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