



What causes mental illness? The biological point of view

Datum i vrijeme:	Utorak, 9. travnja 2019., 13.00 – 18.00 ^{2,3}
Vrsta aktivnosti:	Otvorena vrata znanstveno istraživačkih laboratorija
Lokacija:	Odjel za biotehnologiju, soba O-269, 2. kat
Mentor i voditelji:	doc. dr. sc. Nicholas J. Bradshaw, Bobana Samardžija, univ. bacc. biotechn. et. pharm. inv., Giovanna Dashi

Summary:

Mental illnesses are devastating conditions of the brain that and are among the biggest causes of disability in Croatia and worldwide. While some of the most severe mental illness, such as schizophrenia, affect less than 1% of the population, others such as depression affect 10-15% of people at some stage during their lifetime. There is therefore a huge need to understand better the biology behind these conditions, so that we can work towards better diagnosis and treatment of patients. We investigate the role of specific genes and proteins in these conditions, through looking at their effect on human cells. We will explain the ideas behind this work, as well as demonstrate the type of experiments we perform.

Biographies:

A native of the United Kingdom, Nick Bradshaw studied Biology and Physics at Durham University (England) in 2005, before moving to the University of Edinburgh (Scotland) for his doctoral studies. There, Nick began working on several genes and proteins that had been implicated in schizophrenia. This became a major interest for him, and ever since he has been studying biological events that lead to the development of major mental illnesses in patients. This included five years working at the Heinrich Heine University in Düsseldorf (Germany), before he moved to Rijeka in 2017, in order to teach and to continue his research within in the Department of Biotechnology.

Bobana Samardžija holds an undergraduate degree in the field of Biotechnology and Drug Research, while being enrolled at the moment in graduate programme Drug research and development at University of Rijeka. At the moment, she is doing research about correlation of aggregation of proteins and mental illnesses. In her free time, Bobana is passionate about volunteering on sport's and humanitarian projects.

Giovanna Dashi is a third year student at the undergraduate program Biotechnology and Drug Research on the Department of Biotechnology. As a part of her final thesis she is currently working on a research project in the field of protein aggregation in mental illness under the mentorship of doc.dr.sc Nick Bradshaw.

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