

Interview with Erol Licsandru

I'm from Romania, and technically I have a degree in chemical engineering, but since my University years I was drawn to research. I started working in research in my third year as an extracurricular activity. After I got my license I did a Master programme, "Pharmaceutical substances and cosmetics", which was focused on chemical synthesis. The PhD came naturally after that.



Erol Licsandru
IEM, France

How did you meet Mihai Barbiou's team?

In 2010 I did an Erasmus grant here at IEM Montpellier and that's how I got to meet NSA. On a side note I strongly recommend to everyone to do an Erasmus, it's a great life experience, both from a professional and a personal point of view.

Can you describe your project? And tell us about the objectives you have to reach?

My project is mainly focused on transport (ions and water) through biological membranes. We also have a lot of collaborations with our partners in the DYNANO network which generically are focused on biosensors. In terms of objective, that would be "do what Mother Nature did". Only simpler. And better. And in three years. (laughing)

What is the best thing about taking a PhD? What is challenging?

Well I'm one of the very fortunate people to be in a Marie Curie ITN. I'm doing state of the art research with some of the best researchers in Europe, in a multidisciplinary fashion. There is no better way to learn and evolve professionally. This would be the best thing about taking a PhD. I wouldn't call it challenging, but the difficulty in this is that you have to always be ready to learn and understand new ideas, concepts, and methods. So it would be the refresh rate of your own brain.



Institut
Européen des
Membranes

Could you tell us your feelings and feedback from your 1st secondment training?

It was great. I got to learn new methods from other fields of research and to meet new and interesting people. My project here was split in two directions, a lipid capturing sensor and the molecular electrodes application which is collaboration between IEM, ICS and ICB. So there was a lot to be done, but I think I managed. I would also like to take this chance to thank the people from ICB for all their help and support.

Do you have some advice to master students considering taking a PhD?

Always keep an open mind. Don't worry about the volume and difficulty of your work, these are your best years to learn- just do it.

What are your plans after completing the PhD?

Probably a Postdoc. I didn't have a chance yet to take a look at the Postdoc options that the EU provides, but I think they will be as good as my PhD is.

Thank you Erol and all the best for DYNANO.



Institut
Européen des
Membranes

DYNANO in brief

Starting date: 1st November 2011

Project duration: 48 months

Number of partners: 15

Project Coordinator: Dr. Mihai BARBOIU,
European Membrane Institute -IEM, Montpellier, France.

FP7-PEOPLE-2011-ITN

Grant agreement n°: PITN-GA-2011-289033

EC funding: 3 825 000 €.

www.dynano.eu