Siegfried Kasper Medical University of Vienna, Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Austria

The Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy at the Medical University of Vienna, Austria altogether has 144 inpatients and also a large outpatient clinic with several specialised outpatient clinics.

We treat the whole spectrum of psychiatric disorders and use modern treatment programmes including pharmacotherapy, psychotherapy and non-pharmacological interventions.

Besides standardised and individualised diagnosis and treatment of our patients we also have different research groups that include clinical psychopharmacology, brain imaging, molecular biology as well as studies an biological rhythms.

The designated ECNP fellows will have the choice to experience either more patient oriented in a standardised approach overseeing modern algorithm treatment or may choose to work closer with one of the research groups as mentioned above.

The head of the Department, Prof. Siegfried Kasper, a Fellow of the ECNP as well as his senior and junior doctors are delighted to welcome colleagues from different parts of the world to share their experience with the aim to better understand and treat our patients.

The Functional, Molecular and Translational Neuroimaging Lab (Head: Prof. R. Lanzenberger, MD, PD) at the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy (Head: Prof. Siegfried Kasper, MD), Medical University of Vienna carries out translational research in psychiatry. The integration of functional, structural and molecular neuroimaging expertise plays a pivotal role in clinical neurosciences and supports the assessment of changes and alterations in the diseased and healthy human brain in vivo. Hence, our main research areas comprise multimodal neuroimaging using PET, PET/MR, structural and functional MRI as well as connectivity assessments in both psychiatric and neurological patients and healthy subjects. This extends to neuroimaging in psychopharmacology, psychoneuroendocrinology including gender medicine, cognitive neuroscience, imaging genetics (genotyping/GWAS, epigenetics/EWAS, gene expression) and experimental neuronuclear medicine. Currently, we are focused on research within the monoaminergic neurotransmitter systems and are investigating pharmacological effects on the serotonin and norepinephrine transporters, the main serotonergic receptor subtypes, and enzymes such as monoamine oxidase A, and task-specific brain activation. New methodological advancements in multimodal neuroimaging combining pharmacological MRI (phMRI) and PET further allow for the evaluation of drug effects in the brain of healthy subjects and patients. Therefore, the combination of molecular and functional imaging data may reveal novel information regarding relationships between neurochemical, structural and functional alterations in psychiatric and neurological disorders. Interns can contribute to ongoing studies, help with patient recruitment, or assist in psychophysiological as well as diagnostic or clinical assessments. Internships have a regular duration of two weeks.