Jasmin MORANDELL

Finishing year: 2020

Supervisor: Gaia Novarino, IST Austria

Co-Supervisor: Harald Sitte, Medical University of Vienna

Thesis title: Illuminating the Role of *Cul3* in Autism Spectrum Disorder Pathogenesis.

Current position and employer: Currently on Maternity leave from IST Austria

MolTag alumni page:

Jasmin Morandell (univie.ac.at)

Social network:

Jasmin Morandell | **LinkedIn**

How would you summarize your thesis results in 3 sentences?

My thesis project investigated the molecular and cellular consequences of mutations in the high-risk autism gene *CUL3*. Employing a mouse model we could show that *Cul3* heterozygous deletion leads to behavioral, electrophysiological and brain anatomical deficits that are rooted in early development: newly generated neurons in the embryonic cortex fail to properly migrate to their target location due to an abnormal accumulation of cytoskeletal proteins, of which the actin bundling protein Pls3 appears to be the most important one.

What are you doing now?

Currently, I am on maternity leave. For my professional feature I am planning to continue my work as a researcher and will soon be looking for an interesting PostDoc position.

What was the impact of the MolTag program on your further career?

Thanks to MolTag I had the opportunity to attend several scientific meetings and conferences over the course of my PhD. Giving talks and presenting posters at these conferences **allowed me to meet a number of interesting researchers that may eventually become feature employers.**

What did you particularly like about the MolTag program?

The interdisciplinary environment and the students' community. **Interacting with chemists and pharmacologists broadened my scientific horizon as a molecular biologist significantly.**

What is your recommendation for current MolTag PhD students?

Stay connected to the MolTag community and talk to your fellow MolTag students, also if from a different field- **they may give you new perspectives on your research question.**