

Experience Report

I spent the last year at the National Center for Adaptive Neurotechnologies (NCAN in Albany, NY. Albany itself is the Capitol of the state New York on the east coast of the United States of America. It is a nice small city with its own airport and good bus connections to New York City and Boston.

The department itself has a long and successful history in research and frequently invites scientists from all over the world. The researchers, as well as the supporting staff are knowledgeable and help wherever they can. They were extremely helpful with the visa paperwork and did their best to ensure I had everything I needed. The researchers at NCAN did not only answer any questions I had, but also went out of their way to show me other research done in the facility. This included the opportunity to visit the operating room at the Albany Medical Center. There, I was invited to observe a temporal lobe resection and experience ECoG research at first hand.

Gerwin Schalk, my supervisor in Albany, values independent work and encourages an open-door policy. He and Jonathan Wolpaw, frequently organize get-togethers for the staff, encouraging a positive work atmosphere.

In addition to my duties at the institute I was able to attend the BCI Meeting 2018 in Asilomar, California where I acted as a juror in the br4in.io competition and assisted in the dissemination of BCI2000, a general-purpose software system for brain-computer interface research developed at NCAN. The continued support of Gerwin Schalk and the other laboratory members enabled me, not only to write my thesis, but also a scientific publication that will be presented at Neuroscience Conference 2018.

In conclusion, my research stay at the National Center for Adaptive Neurotechnologies was one of the most rewarding experiences in my life. I would recommend this to anybody who is interested in neuroscience research or research in general. Gerwin Schalk is passionate, encouraging and welcoming to prospective students that would like to work in his laboratory. I happily provide additional information for anybody who plays with the idea of a research stay in Albany, NY.