

### JSPS website report

From 13<sup>th</sup> August to 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013, I have worked as a JSPS-funded cooperative visiting researcher, based at the Centre for Information and Neural Networks (CiNET), Osaka. I have been supervised by Dr. Ben Seymour from the Pain Lab. During my short stay in Japan, I have initiated a long-term collaboration between the Pain Lab and my research team in London. This collaboration involves implementing a theoretical and experimental framework for a brain-machine interface that performs on-line prediction of pain episodes. With this aim, I undertook a critical analysis of the current state of pain decoding research using neuroimaging data. This analysis has been written up and submitted to a high profile journal in the field. I have also presented two external seminars about my London-based work on methods for diagnosing psychiatric disorders using brain-imaging data at the Advanced Telecommunications Research Institute and at CiNet. This led to a proposed new collaboration on the application of these methods for psychiatric neuroimaging data in Japan. In addition, I have provided technical support on how to use a software toolbox that I am co-developer for the analysis of data from the Pain Lab and from the Department of Anesthesiology, Osaka University. This may also lead to a new collaboration on using pattern recognition methods in animal neuroimaging, which would be a completely novel direction for the field.

My short visit to Japan was a very positive and enriching experience, both professionally and personally. In general, I think the research environment in Japan is very friendly and rich. Apart from the difficulty in finding a place to stay and cooking with Japanese ingredients, living in Japan was very easy and fun. Japan is a beautiful and diverse country and my only recommendation to future JSPS fellows is to work hard but travel and eat delicious Japanese food even harder!

Maria Rosa, Centre for Neuroimaging Sciences, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, UK.

Contact: [maria.rosa@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:maria.rosa@kcl.ac.uk)

