

## European Researchers Night 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019

### The National History Museum

European Researchers' Nights are public events dedicated to bringing researchers closer to the general public. They are one of the most well-known public engagement events in Europe and are hosted by museums, universities, science centres and research institutes. They showcase the diversity of current research and highlight the impact of research on daily lives. Their aim is also to enhance **public awareness of the positive role of research in society**.

This year the European Researchers' Night in London was hosted by the National History Museum. One of the activities which took place during the event, was the 'EU Pub'. The aim of the EU Pub was to allow members of the public to have a relaxed chat with a scientist over a drink and start some rich discussions. The format was informal, so conversations were flowing more fluidly, and this helped remind people that scientists are 'just normal people too'!

I was excited to take part in the event as it was a great opportunity to communicate with the public and share some information about our TOBeATPAIN Horizon2020 EU funded research at King's.

The activity was well-organized, more than 15 people came to my table to speak. We had a common interest and excitement about science and discussed really challenging questions. Everyone left the table with concerns and further thoughts about the conversation.

Public engagement events, like European Researchers Night, are an important way to raise public awareness of our research into Pain in Parkinson's and Alzheimer's sufferers and help to inspire and re energise ourselves.

Review Joana Lama

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