

# ANDREA SANTUY

## NEUROSCIENTIST

A class showing beautiful images of Golgi staining of Purkinje neurons with a golden background swang Andrea's choice of specialism towards neuroscience. Andrea names her undergraduate tutor, Nerea Moreno, Complutense University of Madrid, as a role model.

Andrea is a now neuroscience PhD candidate who has recently defended her thesis. "Even if I spend some time off after my PhD," she says, "I will still be keen to get back to my Purkinje neurons!"

### Work/life balance

Andrea manages her laboratory life to make time for herself and counts spells as a keen scout leader as providing particular satisfaction. Scouting made Andrea what she is now. The scout principles of disregarding differences in gender, race, and religion, plus being trustful, careful, and thankful are ones, Andrea believes, everyone should have.

Her globetrotting has taken her to Bolivia, where she spent a summer assisting street children, and 1 year in Canada on an Erasmus grant in a multinational and intercultural group. "If you know how other nationalities think and feel, you cannot hate them," she says.

### Working to achieve equality, "because we are equal!"

Andrea works in a department consisting of 70% women and 30% men (with guaranteed pay equality). On the gender issue, her message to younger women is, "Don't be scared, don't think you are less than anyone else – you are as important as the guys. If you have a question, ask it! If you have an opinion – share it!" Recently, Andrea has noted many students aged 18-25 saying that they do not perceive gender imbalance as a problem. To those people, Andrea says, "Wake up!"

It is clear that Andrea is committed to profound and lasting change to achieve gender equality. Specific achievements to date include co-authorship of a prize-winning poster entitled [Why most conference speakers are men?](#) displayed in 2016 at an annual PhD and postdoctoral student meeting, eliciting a positive response from the organizers and a commitment to do better in future. In addition, Andrea achieved, as organizer, equality of gender representation in the speaker list for the [second Human Brain Project \(HBP\) Student Conference](#), 14-16 Feb 2018, Ljubljana, Slovenia.



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