Neural coding of attention and attentional set shifting in the rat medial prefrontal cortex

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Nothing in the universe is contingent, but all things are conditioned to exist and operate in a particular manner by the necessity of the divine nature.

-Benedictus de Spinoza-

Although the way to reach this very last stage of “Doctor of Philosophy” (Ph.D) was not straight and it took a long time, I have tried to learn from my mistakes, to enjoy all dramatic curves on the path and to be a real “Philosopher”. The brain, especially the prefrontal cortex, is a beautiful area as like in the universe. I really appreciate God, who creates the nature in order, with harmony, to open my eyes to see the beauty. Science cannot be carried out by one’s individual effort but is accumulated knowledge by all of us who love it. Thus, I really respect (renowned or anonymous, like a student) scientists who spent their life searching for truths and shared it without expecting any reward. Without their efforts, I am sure, it would be difficult to attain this step. Undoubtedly, conducting this Multimodal Attentional Set Shifting (MASS) project is owing a lot to many people who aided physically and mentally. I would like to give lots of thanks to them before closing this thesis.

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Finishing this Ph.D is opening another door to me to continue to search truths and explore the beautiful world ….

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