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*Master internship at Khademhosseini Lab, BWH, Harvard-MIT HST*

*01/2017 – 07/2017*

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My internship in the Khademhosseini lab was the best and the most challenging period of my life. I was planning on doing my master internship in Vienna. However, since around half my colleagues at the university were going aboard for their internships, I also decided to follow the crowd. I ended up searching online for tissue engineering laboratories and came across the Khademhosseini lab. The research that they did was very closely related to the topics that we focused on in the master's program. Since, the tissue engineering field is still very new and in its early stages, I was fascinated by the intensive and diverse research that this group was performing in this field. So, I decided to apply, not thinking there would be any chance of me being accepted. Within a few minutes of writing the email, I received a reply from professor Khademhosseini, saying he was glad that I was interested in the lab and I should contact the lab's personal coordinator for further selection process. One thing led to another and on January 10th of 2017, I was sitting in a plane to Boston, Massachusetts. The first month was very difficult for me. It was hard to adjust to the new city, a new lab culture and many new people. It took time for me to find good friends and fit in. Then in a few weeks the city and its people grew on me.

What made my stay in Boston extra special was a friend from my university, who was also in the same lab. We quickly became great friends and set about to explore the city. Boston is a great city for students, as it always keeps you on your toes. There is always something to do and see. There are some amazing beaches in and around Boston and I was lucky to visit almost all of them. Sailing is another great free time activity, especially on free sailing days. There were too many free things to do, so even someone as lazy as me had no reason to stay home. The weather in Boston was always on the extreme side. I got to experience 3 winter storms during my stay of 7 months. The city goes still with everything covered in snow, leaving you with no other option than to stay home. The summers are great, with lots of events and outdoor activities.

Boston is quite an expensive city, especially the rent. I started looking for apartments quite late, but was fortunate enough to find an affordable shared space through Facebook. The general cost of living is extremely high, from food to transportation. Thankfully, I was given a reduced fare for the public transportation from BWH. I used to cook a lot with my friend and did most of my shopping at the Haymarket, which offered cheap produce. Without the help of the marshal plan scholarship, it would not have been easy to get by.

My time in the lab was very memorable. I got to work with people from different countries and different scientific backgrounds. In the 7 months, I learned much more than I ever could have imagined. Even as a master student you were expected to be able to run a project independently and execute new ideas. It really challenged me and helped me grow as a person

and as a researcher. The lab was very intradisciplinary with experts from every scientific field, from biologists to mechanical engineers, who were highly passionate about their work and this passion would easily rub off on anyone. The time spent in Boston truly helped me grow as a person and gain valuable experience. Boston will always be special to me, most importantly, I will always remember the great people I met during my stay.

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Marshall plan foundation for providing me the financial aid that gave me the opportunity to be a part of an innovative research group and making my master thesis possible.

## Contacts

### **Ali Khademhosseini, Ph.D**

Full Professor, Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology  
Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering  
Department of Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Harvard Medical School  
PRB, Rm 252  
65 Landsdowne Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139, USA  
Tel: 617-388-9271  
Email: [alik@rics.bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:alik@rics.bwh.harvard.edu)  
Website: <http://www.tissueeng.net/lab>

### **Wesley Wang**

Lab Administrator, Operations Coordinator  
Khademhosseini Lab,  
65 Landsdowne St, PRB-252, Cambridge, MA 02139-4232  
Tel: 617-768-8330  
Email: [wawang@bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:wawang@bwh.harvard.edu)

