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## Field Report

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### Marshall Plan Foundation

### Martin Wilkovitsch

Institute of Applied Synthetic Chemistry, TU Wien

at the Center for Systems Biology, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA



HARVARD  
MEDICAL SCHOOL



MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL HOSPITAL

June 2021 – September 2021

## **General impression of the research stay abroad:**

The research group of Prof. Weissleder at the Center for Systems Biology (CSB; Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA) combines various scientific fields such as chemistry, cell biology, human medicine, microscopy, nanosciences and biophysics and therefore enables interdisciplinary research on a top level. The provided superior laboratory infrastructure allows for highly independent research in different fields and most of the instruments are shared with other research groups smoothly. The computer, IT and software facility is great and helpful for most issues either with the private laptop or working device. The main common kitchen area is a great place for casual chats during lunch time.

The CSB building itself is located right in the center of Downtown Boston easily accessible by public transportation or bike. Various shopping facilities are close by as well as restaurants. The admission to the building is provided by a personal ID badge for each employee that makes coming and going and moving inside of the building freely.

## **Quality of the host institution:**

From a scientific standpoint the Center of Systems Biology represents the interface between Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School and is one of the most famous and prominent research institutes in the field of life sciences worldwide. The collaboration within the Weissleder group but also with other scientists at the CSB is very open-minded and further contributes to the excellent scientific reputation of this research institution.

The scientific interests of our group at TU Wien and this organization were a perfect fit and led to a fruitful collaboration which will be continued and deepened in the future.

Personally, the opportunity to do a research internship at such a prestigious institution broadened my scientific and social horizon.

## **Contacts within the host institution, inclusion in the organization:**

The instructors and co-workers in the group are both, personally and scientifically, very helpful, cooperative and brilliant in their individual fields, and helped me to take the next step in my career. The Weissleder lab has a strong solidarity within the group which made the inclusion for me very easy. Different group activities and team building events were organized. During my research stay many of the employees became my friends and I will definitely keep in touch with them in the future.

## **Recommendation for future Marshall Plan students and fellows:**

As Boston, Massachusetts, is one of the most expensive cities in the US for future Marshall Plan students and fellows I recommend the early booking of your accommodation for your stay. The rent in one of the surrounding areas of Boston (Cambridge, Somerville, Brookline, Jamaica Plain, East Boston etc.) is usually a lot cheaper compared to Downtown but requires reasonable search further in advance. The public transportation system (T, bus, commuter rail) in Boston is great in comparison to other US-cities but rather expensive. Therefore, most people (me included) decide to commute by bike to CSB that worked out just fine.

I highly recommend a research stay at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School and advise further incoming people strongly to enjoy this beautiful city and culture.

## **Contact E-Mail:**

[martin.wilkovitsch@tuwien.ac.at](mailto:martin.wilkovitsch@tuwien.ac.at)