

AUSTRIAN MARSHALL PLAN FOUNDATION

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Field Report of the stay at University of Minnesota

07.02.2017 – 07.02.2018

I am honored to receive Marshall-Plan fellowship for my research stay at University of Minnesota. The host institution (Department of Pharmaceutics) welcomed me warmly. Department is well equipped for pharmaceutical research and in close proximity to various research labs, connected through freeways. I was able to learn cutting edge imaging techniques, which could have been a dream without my stay at UMN. Dr Kandimalla lab combines pharmacokinetics with basic biology to understand the kinetics of peptides in mice and humans.

During my stay I had a chance to work at Mayo Clinic at Department of Radiology (Val Lowe lab). This stay allowed me to experience the work ethic of one of the premier institutes in the USA for translational research. At Mayo Clinic I worked on SPECT/CT imaging of radiolabeled peptides in APP/PS1 mice, however this work is not possible without (Geoffrey Curran, Tyler J. Brunisma and Min H. Paul).

Minneapolis is relatively a mid-sized city in the US. However, the cost of living depends on housing location. Student residences are a bit expensive compared to common housing provided by the university. Surprisingly, visiting scholars are not considered for university housing hence to support the costs one needs fellowships to stay at the university.

However, working space (Department of Pharmaceutics) is very limited. Training modules are vigorous and it will take relatively most of the research stay duration to get acquainted with access to the core facility instruments. Otherwise, one can apply his efforts to generate quality work. The Lions Research Building/Mcguire Translational Research Facility (LRB), MCRB (Masonic Cancer Center) and Cancer & Cardiovascular Research Building (CCRB) are funded well and harbor great scientists especially in the area of cancer and inflammatory research. I was fortunate to work in these labs during my research stay.

Furthermore, I would like to emphasize on priorities to choose a research lab. I strongly believe that one should come to terms with the host institute and know about the funding agencies and infrastructure of the host lab to get going the moment one could start their research stay.

Quality of the host institution: 3 out of 5

Contacts within the host institution:

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Recommendation for future students: I strongly recommend UMN if the host lab is well

acquainted with the NIH funds and strong support from the host institute.