

General impression

In my opinion, I had a successful research stay at UCSD in Saltiel laboratory. During the past 10 months, I experienced different culture and working styles, and figured out why it's so efficient to do research in America. I had the chances to involve in different projects. One of them was published (I was listed as co-authors) and the following project will be my independent project during my postdoc training there. Another one is still going on, and I have learnt new experimental skills and knowledge from this project, such as inflammation and macrophages. The people there was also friendly and collaborative. There were a lot seminars about the up-to-date researches and most of the speakers are famous in the field. The weather at San Diego was very nice during winter and summer.

Host institution

There are many collaborative facilities inside UCSD. And UCSD also offers a lot career development plans. Our laboratory is located at altman clinical and translational research institute (ACTRI) which provides a space for the university's cutting-edge biomedical and translational research. With an international faculty that represents a constellation of biomedical disciplines, ACTRI embraces innovation, collaboration and creative science that has a tangible impact on human health. There is also a state-of-the-art specific pathogen free animal facility within ACTRI building.

Contacts within the institution

During my stay, I successfully obtained the access to their animal facility. I also got trained at their FACS core facility. I had frequent personal mentoring from my supervisor-Alan Saltiel. With his support, I submitted a postdoc fellowship to FWF for finalizing me go back as a postdoc. Another ongoing project is also a collaborative project with Dr. Shannon Reilly who is an adjunct assistant

professor at Saitiel lab. The whole group has regular journal club every Tuesday and group meeting every Thursday. Also, on the special days (e.g. Halloween, Christmas), there will be organized potluck with the colleagues at the institute.

For future student

I would strongly recommend those student who want to do their research stay at UCSD. UCSD is one of the world's leading public research universities, which also has a good ranking among the universities in the world. UCSD has a lot of ongoing events for fresh students and state-of-the-art researches. There is no doubt that it's a perfect place for doing research. Also the location at sea side make its more attractive for whom like the beaches and interested in surfing. Being aware that the living costs were much higher than in Graz, especially the rent. The public transportation was fine for UCSD students who live close to the university but the rent will be high. As a public university, the registration fee was cheap and you can enjoy their library, free campus shuttles and other accesses.