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Yale University  
School of Medicine



Marshallplan-Jubiläumsstiftung  
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Fostering Transatlantic Excellence

## FIELD REPORT –LENA ARTNER

### GENERAL IMPRESSION OF MY RESEARCH STAY ABROAD

I joined the Laboratory of Richard A. Flavell at the Yale School of Medicine in order to conduct my Master Thesis in one of the best Laboratories in my field of research. It was my first research experience abroad and my first time being and living in the United States. I recommend everybody to experience life outside of your home-country. Not only did I acquire a tremendous skill and mind set working with a diverse set of great researchers that will allow me to conduct truly innovative science in my future, but I also matured and developed enormously on a personal level.

### QUALITY OF THE HOST INSTITUTION

The Laboratory of Richard A. Flavell is one of the best funded and experienced Labs at the Yale School of Medicine and globally. Some of the greatest minds in natural sciences are located within this lab or at the institution and I was repeatedly amazed by the top notch science they perform. Close collaborations with experts of other fields and a broad spectrum of in-house-facilities allowed for a vast variety of experiments.

### CONTACTS WITHIN THE HOST INSTITUTION, INCLUSION IN THE ORGANIZATION

Getting in contact early with my later bench-supervisor (J. Richard Brewer) of my thesis work was beneficial to mentally and intellectually prepare for my research stay abroad. The secretary (Caroline Lieber) of Richard A. Flavell also in charge for handling organizational issues made all formal requirements (visa, confirmations for my host university and the Marshal Plan etc.) easy, convenient and extremely fast. Compared to the experiences of other international students I met during my stay abroad, having somebody on the other end that is reliable and always on time answering my requests was more than advantageous.

The welcome in the Lab was very friendly because of some colleagues that had experience with international visiting scholars, J. Richard Brewer, Caroline Lieber, the Lab manager John Alderman and Richard A. Flavell himself. I was valued as a college by every individual and treated as such on a professional level by almost every member of the Lab. During my last conversation with my supervisor I gave feedback how to better include the Austrian master students in the institution and I hope some of them are implemented regarding new arriving students. Although I spent nearly all of my time working in the laboratory, I was able to explore the area, visit New York and Boston and contributed to the foundation of the Yale Salsa Society.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE MARSHALL PLAN STUDENTS AND FELLOWS

- Try to have multiple personal skype meetings with your future supervisor well in advance
- Ask for contacts of former students/ fellows of your research institution to ask them for their feedback on the working environment etc.
- Try to get local information about housing etc. well on time (use Facebook or other social media platforms to get insights)