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FIELD REPORT

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HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL



DANA-FARBER
CANCER INSTITUTE

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Affiliate of Harvard Medical School

Department of Medical Oncology

The Bass Lab

March 31st, 2019

My research-stay at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, a Harvard affiliated hospital, was a priceless learning experience. In addition to becoming proficient in various research techniques and being able to work independently in the lab. I have also build strong connections with the group leader and the other lab members, knowing I am always welcome in Boston.

The Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is located in the heart of the Longwood medical area in Boston, Massachusetts. Boston's Longwood medical and academic area is a thriving, dynamic community of medical, academic, research and cultural organizations that combine to create a nurturing and innovative environment for patients, doctors and scientists. Since its founding in 1947, the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute has been committed to taking care of patients with cancer and providing them with the best treatment available today while developing tomorrow's cures through cutting-edge research. As a scientist or physician at the Dana-Farber, you play an important role in working toward the ultimate goal of the Institute: the eradication of cancer, AIDS, and related diseases and the fear that they engender. The Department of Medical Oncology is one of the many departments found at the Dana-Farber Institute, where more than 250 faculty members are organized into fourteen multidisciplinary disease centers and three research divisions, each focusing on a different specific type of cancer. The group I decided to join is led by Adam Bass, MD, a physician at the DFCI. The Bass laboratory brings together expertise in modern genomics, functional biology and clinical medicine, in hope to elucidate key biological processes and therapeutic vulnerabilities in carcinomas arising in the GI tract.

Prior to the start of my internship, my external supervisors Adam Bass and Osamu Kikuchi have been exceptionally helpful with the visa application and other necessary documentation to start at the Dana-Farber. Moreover, I was also required to obtain blood tests, to prove immunity against multiple viral and bacterial diseases, in order to be cleared by the occupational health department. To ease the transition into the working environment, I was required to attend new employee orientation, where we were showed around Dana-Farber. In addition to laboratory training, I attended seminars on Lab safety and a seminar on the Humane Use and Care of Laboratory Animals to assure I was prepared for all challenges, lying ahead of me. As a member of the department of Medical Oncology I have had the opportunity to also attend a variety of conferences at any of the Harvard affiliated institutes.

As for future Marshall plan students and fellows I would recommend you to truly put time and effort into the initial stage of planning a research internship abroad. Make sure to get to know your future principal investigator and your mentor and to understand what is expected of you before accepting a placement. This way you will surely have a positive experience. An opportunity like this one, can change your life.