

Report internship UCSF Yvonne Thus

First an introduction: I'm Yvonne Thus, a 2nd year master student Biomedical Sciences in Maastricht. From October 2015 till June 2016 I performed my second internship at University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) in the lab of Jeroen Roose, with financial support from the Nora Baart Stichting. My project focused on performing a synthetic lethal screening to find new therapeutic targets for T cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Although my screen did not work as I wanted (of course..), I did learn a lot during these 8 months! I had the opportunity to learn several techniques, to be more independent in the lab, to attend a lot of fascinating seminars, to meet interesting people, and so much more. The lab was great: everybody was very helpful and they organized a lot of things to do together: for example, in my first week I was immediately introduced in the vibe of the lab, with 'Lab-oween' (Halloween in the lab: everybody dressed up). Furthermore I joined two retreats with other labs: a night in Stinson Beach in a beach house and a mid-week in Lake Tahoe for a lot of winter-fun.



Lab-oween (I'm the second on the right)

Besides spending time at UCSF, I also had a lot of time during the weekends to explore California. With a group of other European students we did a lot of trips to for example Napa (wine-tasting), Big Sur (whale spotting), Yosemite (amazing rocks and waterfalls), Lake Tahoe (the longest and most exhausting hike I ever went on..), Santa Cruz, Silicon Valley (biking through a lot of mud..) and a lot more. Every weekend felt like a holiday: seeing new things and exploring the area in and around San Francisco. And the days which were not filled with sight-seeing, were filled with other things: beach volleyball on the beautiful beach near my house, eating very good food, or relaxing in one of San Francisco's parks. Furthermore, I joined a volleyball team (later even two), which meant two evenings a week were filled with playing matches and having drinks with a lot of young people.

Altogether, I really enjoyed my time in San Francisco and I'd like to thank the Nora Baart Stichting for supporting this amazing opportunity!



One of our bike-trips with a view over SF



Playing beach volleyball on this beautiful beach