

**Internship at the University of California San Diego**

**January 2020 – June 2020**

**Lauren de Haan**

I always wanted to go to the US for a couple of months, so I was really happy the moment Don Cleveland gave me the opportunity to come to San Diego to do an 8 months internship. Don is known for his research in neurological diseases like Alzheimer but is also a famous scientist in cancer biology. My internship was focused on the effect of transient chromosomal instability on the genomic landscape. This way, we try to understand the causes and consequences of chromosomal instability in cancer, which is very interesting I think.



The moment I arrived in San Diego was really nice, besides that the weather was extremely nice compared to the Netherlands, people in California are chilled and relaxed, and therefore I felt at home immediately. The people in the lab were really nice as well and open for any questions about research but also about life in California. They really helped me finding my way into the Californian life style. Half way in March my lab had to close down and Utrecht University asked me to come back to the Netherlands. So I booked the first flight possible and 24 hours later I was back at Schiphol again.

Although I had to leave California after three months, I had a really good time. I went on a cruise to watch whales and dolphins, sailed, went to surfing with fellow students at UCSD, did some lasertag with the lab and as a lab we had an Israeli dinner party. I hope to be back one day to really see everybody again. I'm still in close contact with my supervisor as we are currently finishing up to publish the work I have started back in January 2020. I really want to thank the Nora Baart Foundation for the financial support that made it possible for me to study cancer biology for a couple of months to the US.

