



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SERVICES

*2017-2018
Annual Report*

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A MESSAGE FROM ISSS DIRECTOR
ABE SCHAFERMEYER

Education for All

As Director of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), and on behalf of Vice Provost for International Affairs Dennis Galvan, I am very happy to present the 2017-18 ISSS Annual Report.

As you will see in the pages that follow, ISSS's central mission is to welcome the University of Oregon's international student and scholars to our campuses and to support them in their educational and career goals. We provide not only up-to-date immigration information and services but a host of programs and activities that provide orientation, campus integration, and resources to support the long-term academic and career goals of our students and scholars. I am especially proud of how ISSS staff – in partnership with our many similarly-dedicated colleagues across campus – have continued to think “outside of the box” to search for ways to build on our already-successful programs while creating new opportunities to recognize, value, and assist our students and scholars. Our approach remains comprehensive, as we recognize the challenges that international students and scholars face in integrating and flourishing in a cultural, economic, and political environment that is often much different than that found in their respective home countries.

We hope that the facts, figures, and stories in this report help to convey our firm commitment to providing a meaningful educational and vocational experience to anyone who wants to come to the University of Oregon to build better futures for our world. Given the current, often heated political rhetoric that defines the current environment in the United States, it is not surprising that international students and scholars across the country have reported feeling challenged, excluded, and under-valued. In response, I would like to reaffirm that at the University of Oregon, we welcome all of our students and scholars, regardless of their backgrounds, as full members of our community. We believe that everyone deserves respect and recognition and that the education we provide is for all.

As always, I welcome your comments, suggestions and ideas about how we can all work together to make the University of Oregon a destination for students and scholar seeking a world-class education in the special settings offered by the Eugene, Portland, and the state of Oregon. Please enjoy this report, and send me your thoughts at abe@uoregon.edu.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Abe Schafermeyer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Top 10 Countries of Citizenship



ISSS welcomes and supports more than 2,000 international students from around the world. International students increase diversity and cross-cultural experience on the UO campus.



2,700
INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS

103
COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED

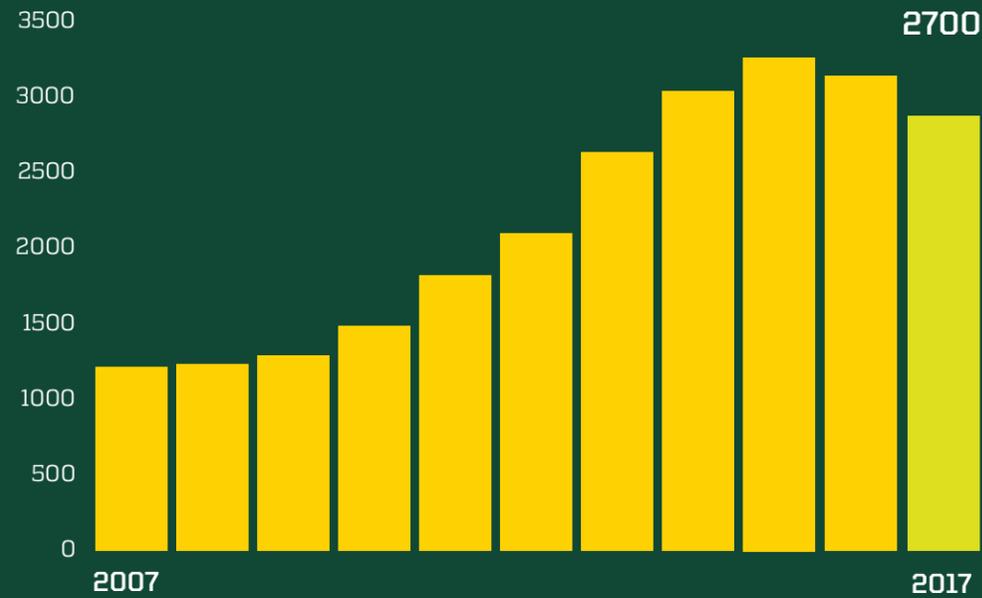
2,159
UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS

448
GRADUATE
STUDENTS

93
NON-DEGREE
SEEKING

General Data and Top Ten Majors for 2017-2018

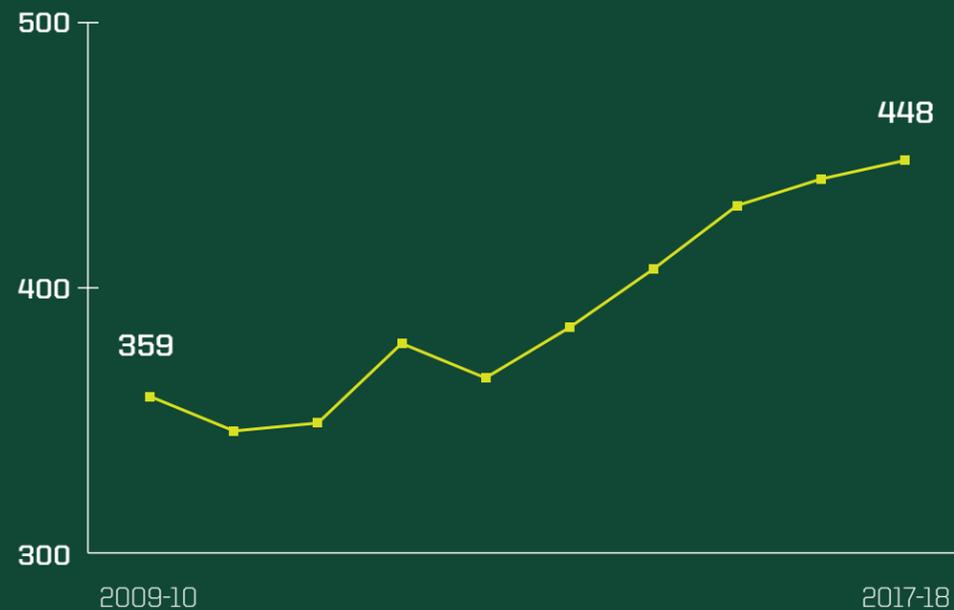
International Student Enrollment



Undergraduate Students

	TOTAL	%
Business Administration	513	19
Economics	360	13
Exploring	251	9
Computer and Information Science	120	4
General Social Science	87	3
Psychology	81	3
Journalism	81	3
Mathematics	77	3
Accounting	62	3
Biology	44	2

Graduate Student Enrollment



Graduate Students

	TOTAL	%
Computer and Information Science	36	8
Architecture	23	5
Linguistics	22	5
Accounting	20	4
Media Studies	19	4
Music Performance	18	4
General Business	16	3
Sports Product Management	16	3
East Asian Languages and Literature	12	3
Special Education	12	3



International Peer Mentor Program
***Young Leaders Help UO
Increase Student Success***

Every term, we welcome new students to the University of Oregon through international student orientation and peer mentoring.

Our goal is to help new international students find their place at the University of Oregon through academic success and cultural integration activities. Our peer mentors are trained to meet with new international students throughout their first term at the university to connect them to resources, campus clubs and activities, and create engaging experiences for new students to further connect to the campus community.

Many International Peer Mentors have international experience and can relate to the cultural, academic, and social adjustment issues that arise for international students when they first attend the U of O. Peer mentors also play an integral role in international student orientation and the Academic English for International Students (AEIS) classes every term.



International Cultural Service Program
Reuniting World Ambassadors

For 35 years, UO's International Cultural Service Program (ICSP) has recruited outstanding international students to serve as community and multicultural ambassadors.

Last year, a group of 40 ICSP alumni and friends gathered for one of the few reunions held in the program's history. The aim of the meeting was to remember the past and celebrate the program, but also network and find ways to secure its future.

At the event were alumni from each decade, with visitors from as far as Hong Kong and France. Participants included UO alumni who now work in technology, media, science, and economics.

The personal and professional achievements of many ICSP alumni are an immense credit to the small beginnings of one of UO's most successful international programs.

"The scholarship is for high-need, high potential international students," said Abe Schafermeyer, director of ISSS. "The awards have a range based on needs—we provide the least amount that can be given, so we can increase the footprint of the funds to as many as possible."

Many years have now passed since the first cohort of ICSP students came to the UO in 1985. At its peak, the program had as many as 51 scholarship recipients in the late 90s. However, as tuition costs for the UO have increased in the past decade and funds for tuition remission have remained flat, Schafermeyer has been forced to focus resources on a smaller body of students each year.

Visit iss.uoregon.edu/icsp and watch the video explaining the history of this amazing program.



International Scholarships 2017-2018

\$1,532,600 **\$750,000**

Total financial aid and scholarships for international students.

International Cultural Service Program (ICSP) Scholarship funds.

\$142,800 **\$152,000**

Total disbursement through Endowed Scholarships.

Total Sponsored Scholarships awarded.

\$107,800 **\$380,000**

International Student Fee Remission.

Total International Dean's Excellence Award (IDEA).

iss.uoregon.edu/scholarships

Life Abroad Inspired Couple to Host International Students



Matthew Fisher is the current Chair and Treasurer of the FFIS Steering Committee. He and his wife Kassy hosted their first FFIS student in 2009 and Matthew joined the Steering Committee the following year. Their now eight-year-old daughter Margot took her first steps as a one-year-old in Beppu, Japan.

“Hosting international students from the UO is a wonderful and convenient way to stay connected to the international community, while also sharing a bit about our larger “American” culture and the unique nature of our local community, says Matthew. “It’s an amazing feeling to make those meaningful connections with those who, at times, come from radically different social and cultural backgrounds.”

Matthew is originally from Tampa Bay, Florida and has been a Lane County resident since 2006. He holds an undergraduate degree from the University of South Florida in Philosophy and International Studies. He followed that up with graduate studies in Planning and Public Policy at the University of Oregon. Matthew is currently a stay-at-home father after working in the Springfield Public Schools Transportation Department.

Why did you become an FFIS Volunteer?

Kassy and I had both done quite a bit of international traveling before we met. Actually, one of the things that I found attractive and intriguing about Kassy was the amount of traveling she did overseas and how much exposure she had to foreign communities and cultures. I guess you could say that it’s really important to me that we find a way to connect to the larger international community and gain some perspective outside the comforts of our own way-of-life.

What memorable experiences did you have as a result from volunteering with FFIS?

There are many, but the most memorable are the Fall Picnics that we hold each year. It’s quite remarkable to see all the moving pieces required to get a social event of that size off the ground and merge together to create a safe, engaging, and fun experience for all involved. We literally have individuals from all corners of the planet coming together, celebrating the wonders of diversity, and dissolving the barriers that keep many in the international landscape unnecessarily divided. Again, it’s the theme of making meaningful connection that’s most memorable.

From an interview with FFIS Committee Chair Matthew Fisher

The Friendship Foundation for International Students was founded in 1950 under the leadership of University of Oregon faculty members and community leaders. The Office of International Affairs supports FFIS programs and activities for international students and scholars. The majority of FFIS funding comes from individual voluntary donations.



Afghan-Canadian Scholar's Life Experiences Inspire Research Abroad, Global Interests



After my doctoral studies, I was interested in taking up a position that allowed me to teach in my areas of research interest while also supporting my geographic areas of focus. I interviewed at a number of universities on the east coast, but the position at UO and the composition of the department appealed to me the most. I was also interested to be part of the launch of a Middle East studies minor at UO. I am a full-time faculty member in the Department of International Studies, but also affiliated with the Department of Political Science and advise some of their doctoral students who work on the Middle East.

I was born in Afghanistan, in a village in the northern part of the country, but then my parents moved to the capital Kabul. We became refugees and fled Afghanistan in 1984 and lived in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan for the next 12 years. I spent my childhood in Peshawar and went to school for refugee kids. I come from a big family of seven siblings. My official nationality is Canadian.

My research has been focused on examining the transition to market economy in the Middle East and North Africa, and the conflicts that have unfolded in the region. I am particularly interested in exploring the changing power relationships in the shift towards a market economy and how workers and peasants have fared as a result. I also study the changing role of the state as it empowers some groups while actively marginalizing others, under the pretext of national security.

My family migrated to Canada in 1996 and that is where I completed high school and college. I was interested in learning about our situation, the causes of our displacement, and the role of geopolitics. I was puzzled as to why Afghanistan was at the center of US-Soviet rivalry, why the US was supporting very conservative, religious groups who were based in Pakistan and what they were trying to achieve in doing so.

My latest research explores the relationship between globalization, forced displacement, and forced migration in the Middle East and North Africa. I received a fellowship from the UO Wayne Morse Center for 2017-18. This fellowship along with grants from the College of Arts and Sciences and Office of International Affairs enabled me to conduct the first round of fieldwork in Greece and France in December 2017.

In so many ways, my life has been defined by politics and I could not escape it under the circumstances I lived.

At the heart of my research is the concern that global economic reforms have played a major role in undermining the livelihoods of populations, resulting in displacement (internally and internationally). This should force us to revisit the outdated distinctions between a refugee and a migrant in this current context and as a result the obligation of states towards these displaced populations.

Total International Scholars 2017-18 236

Top 10 Departments

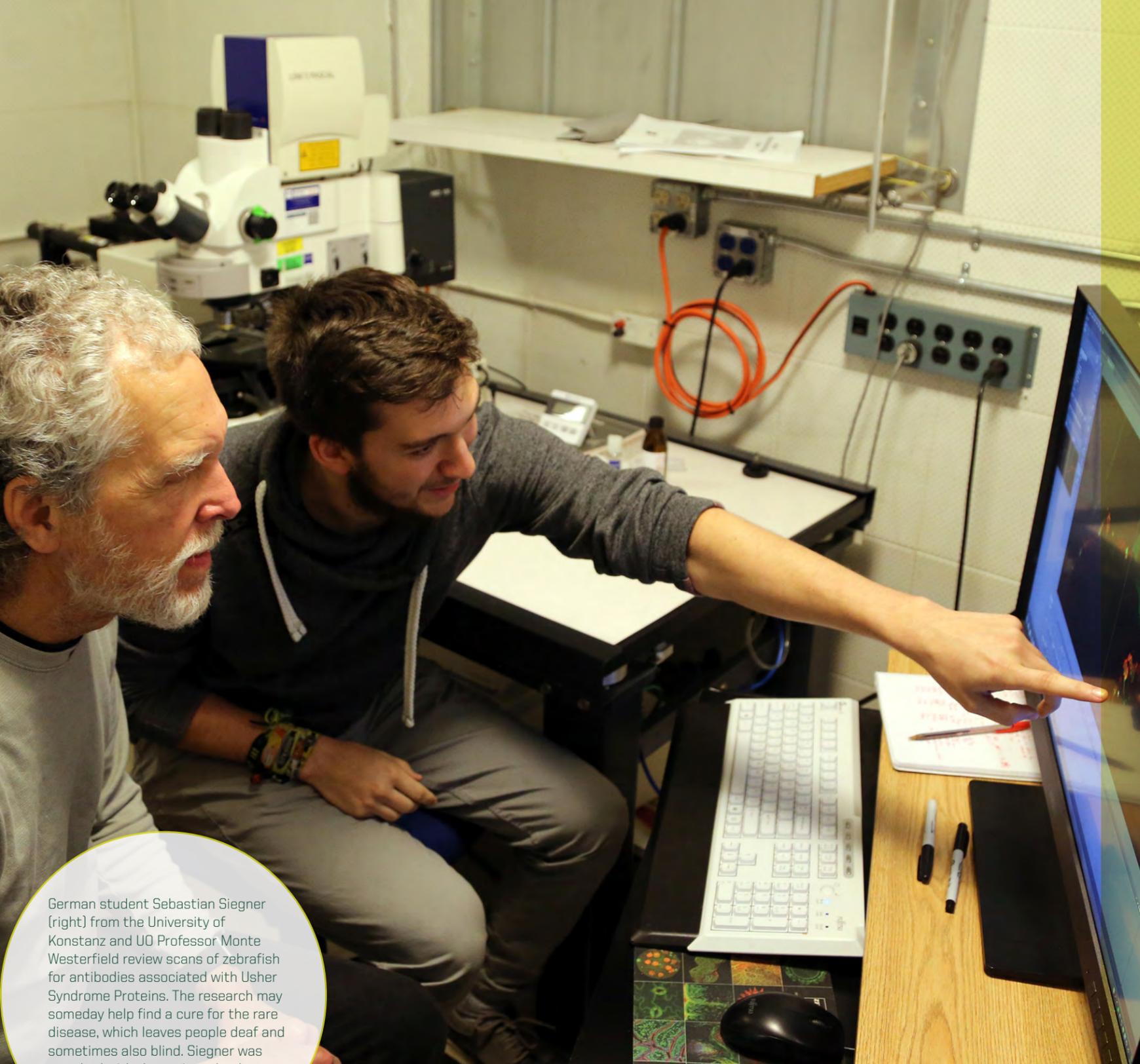
	TOTAL	%
Center for Asian & Pacific Studies	35	15
Chemistry and Biochemistry	17	7
Human Physiology	13	6
Global Studies Institute	11	5
Linguistics	10	4
Architecture	9	4
Mathematics	7	3
Education	7	3
Philosophy	6	3
Sustainable Cities Initiative	6	3



Top Countries of Citizenship

	TOTAL	%
China	82	35
Republic of Korea	20	8
Canada	13	6
Thailand	11	5
Germany	10	4
Japan	10	4
Taiwan	8	3
France	7	3
Spain	7	3
United Kingdom	7	3

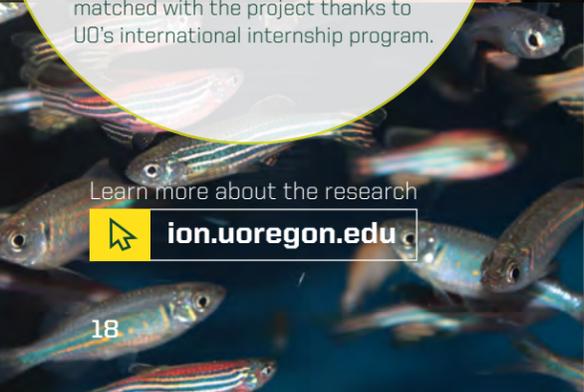




German student Sebastian Siegner (right) from the University of Konstanz and UO Professor Monte Westerfield review scans of zebrafish for antibodies associated with Usher Syndrome Proteins. The research may someday help find a cure for the rare disease, which leaves people deaf and sometimes also blind. Siegner was matched with the project thanks to UO's international internship program.

Learn more about the research

ion.uoregon.edu



International Internship Program

Young German Researcher Advances Genetic Career at UO

I met Professor Westerfield during my exchange in 2016-17 at the University of Oregon. I took his class on "Molecular Basis of Human Disease." I began to develop an interest in his research of disease mechanisms at the molecular level. Later that year I started to do some research in the Westerfield lab dealing with the Undiagnosed Disease Network (UDN) and got the honor to work with researcher Jennifer Phillips. I had a great time doing this research and handling zebrafish as the model organism. I asked Professor Westerfield for another research project under the guidance of Jennifer. After some planning, we found a project I am still stoked about. I was looking forward to coming back to the UO for my second internship in January 2018.

My internship project deals with Usher Syndrome, the main research focus of the Westerfield lab. Usher Syndrome is a genetic disease affecting people with hereditary deafness at birth and gradual loss of vision over the years. All patients have mutations which code for specific Usher Proteins, categorized into three subtypes *USH1*, *USH2* and *USH3* (with *USH1* being the most severe form). Patients with Usher Syndrome Type 1 are deaf at birth and lose their vision in early childhood. Research suggests the syndrome has its origin in cellular cilia.

In my project, I am investigating the Protein Interaction between the *ush1g* Protein, a member of the Usher Proteins, and the Centrosomal Protein 290 (*cep290*) in the retina of zebrafish to get a better understanding of Usher Proteins' function in the eye.

We are working with zebrafish bearing frameshift mutations in *ush1g* as well as in *cep290*, so they are likely to have none functional versions of these proteins. By comparing them to wildtype fish we are looking for defects we can find. For these comparisons, we use antibody to tag our proteins and see where they are located as well as performing tests to check their vision.

We already obtained a lot of interesting data, having a *cep290* expression in specific rod photoreceptors only. Additionally, we can see potential different isoforms (versions of the protein) in the mutant compared to the wildtype fish. Finally, the transport of specific components important for vision seems to be impaired in the *cep290/ush1g* mutant fish.

It is my first time carrying out a research project on my own. I learned how to carry out all experiments on my own and being able to do important research, which can help people who must deal with this disease. I feel grateful for Monte, giving me the opportunity to do this internship, as well as to Jennifer, for being a great supervisor, and the whole Institute of Neuroscience for helping and supporting me with the organization and realization of this internship.

Go Ducks!

