



July 23 through July 29, 2015
Newsletter 9

THE LAST WEEK ABROAD; MHIRT STUDENTS RETURN HOME; WHAT'S NEXT?

We asked MHIRT 2015 students, “***What is the most important thing you learned about research this summer?***” Here are their answers:

Chiang Mai University

Raphael Raman - The most important thing I learned about research this summer is that effective communication is necessary to develop and maintain good relationships with others. My mentor and colleagues were very valuable to me this summer; they were eager to teach me about their research and help me understand their work. My mentor and colleagues speak good English so there was only a slight language barrier with English. There was huge language barrier when it came to speaking Thai. I wish I had studied more Thai before going there.”

McMillan Ching - I learned that it takes great effort to effectively communicate with our international collaborators. I realized that much of research doesn't just happen inside the lab. It also transcends outside of it through the ongoing discussions among scientists.

University of Munich

Robinson Bucaneg - Anything can happen, so be ready. If something can go wrong, it will.

SEARCH, Bangkok

Chaewon Im - Accuracy, persistence, and patience are integral to research.

Sakaria Auelua-Toomey - The importance of using both qualitative and quantitative research methods. I also learned the importance of building relationships with the community and research team you are doing research with.

Mahidol University

Maya Uemoto - My main goal for my time in Thailand was learning flow cytometry. Through learning this technique and spending time shadowing Dr. Kelley I also learned more about the scientific process of experimental research. Coming from a public health and a qualitative research background, this was a very eye-opening experience. I feel like my horizons have been broadened and I am excited to figure out how this could impact my future research as a DrPH candidate.

Kellyan Nguyen - One of the most important things I have learned about research this summer is the importance of collaboration and communication. Without collaborating and communicating with other researchers, it is difficult to obtain necessary information and complete projects.

Sairel Labasan - The most important thing I learned about research is that it requires extensive planning, down to the day-to-day scheduling that must be carried out and completed. Additionally, no matter how well you plan, it might not always go in the way you intended.

Samantha Esperanza - My research has its successes and failures and you just have to be consistent and patient to ensure the best possible results.

Taneesha Asing - One of the most important things I learned about research this summer is that research definitely takes a lot of time and patience. It teaches you how to be aware of your surroundings and careful when dealing with certain things. Sometimes an experiment may not always go your way and that is ok too!



AFRIMS, Bangkok

Christian Dye - The most important thing I learned is about the type of collaborations to work with. A good collaboration, everyone is putting in equal work, it is effective and efficient, and all parties do their best to get the data to use for publications and grant funding for further collaboration.

We also asked, “***What is/are your thoughts about seeing the research experience abroad come to an end?***” Here are their responses:

Taneesha Asing - I am very sad that my research experience here in Thailand is coming to an end. I've made many new Thai friends and have been guided by awesome mentors as well. I will definitely miss this place and all the experiences!

Sakaria Auelua-Toomey - It is sad, I like to see things finished to the end, so it felt premature. Hopefully I can continue to work with Dr. Charlene over the school semester.

Robinson Bucaneg - I am sad to see it all come to an end. The relationships I've made with the people in my lab I will cherish. I've learned so much in such a positive, enriching environment that I wish I could stay much, much longer.

McMillan Ching - “... graduate students in my lab... became my Ohana. And I am so proud to say that I gained a family here and I now have a reason to return to Thailand. I'm very glad I built a strong relationship with them and I feel strong emotional connection to them. It will be very hard for me to leave them this Sunday but they are forever going to be part of me.

Christian Dye - For me, the experience hasn't and will not end here. My Bangkok mentor, Dr. Schuetz, hoped that I will come back to do some work at AFRIMS. Also because we have an amazing collaboration set up, we will be working together with her lab for some time to get some amazing insight into HIV.

Samantha Esperanza - I'm actually very sad that my research experience is coming to an end especially since I was unsuccessful with BK virus. I wish I had a bit more time.

Chaewon Im - I feel fulfilled and proud that I was able to complete my research and I am very excited to analyze the results. I am also extremely sad to be leaving Thailand and all the amazing people I have met here. I wish I could stay to help Eleanore through phase 2 of her project!

Sairael Labasan - I never thought I'd get so attached to the topic I was given and to the people I met on the trip. Although, it is P'June's project for her PhD work, I found myself becoming increasingly curious about the bacteria and the disease that Dr. Narisara's lab is working on.

Kellyan Nguyen - It was such a wonderful experience to have met and worked with such kind and intelligent individuals. I feel truly blessed to have been given this opportunity to be a part of a research team and to make long lasting relationships with my mentors abroad. It is a bittersweet feeling to leave Thailand, but I am very excited to be coming back home to share my amazing memories with my family and friends. This has definitely been an amazing summer and a time I shall never forget.

Raphael Raman - Conducting research in Chiang Mai, under the mentorship of Dr. Suwit was an amazing opportunity. I feel very privileged to have learned about his research from him, his colleagues and graduate students. Leaving Chiang Mai was an unhappy time for me. I love that place and I love the people there. I feel a deep connection with Chiang Mai and its people. It will always hold a place in my heart and I have many wonderful memories of my time abroad.

Maya Uemoto - I think the chance to live and work in another country was invaluable. This not only helped me grow as a researcher, but as a human being. The graciousness and hospitality that Thai people showed me in my time here is something I want to take back with me to Hawaii. I will miss the food, the temples, and most of all the people that I met here.

