

This summer, I had the amazing opportunity to spend 3 months filled with research, cultural immersion, exploring, and fun in the lovely city of Regensburg, Germany. The time I spent in Germany was spectacular and allowed me to gain full-time research experience while still experiencing the surrounding Bavarian culture.

Starting in May, I worked with Prof. Ralf Wagner's research group with the Institute of Medical Microbiology and Hygiene at the University of Regensburg. After taking immunology at CU Boulder, I became very interested in vaccine development and virology, and the Wagner lab made sure to find a research project that aligned with my academic interests. Under the guidance of my fabulous mentor Martina Pfranger, Ph.D., I worked on creating an "all-in-one" trivalent rMVA vaccine that protects against Ebola, Marburg, and Lassa Fever. Conducting this type of research was eye-opening, as I was able to see the process of vaccine development and the ability to improve health across the globe, from bench to clinic. My time in the lab was spent running multiple experiments myself, learning new laboratory techniques from different lab members, and participating in group meetings. I loved the research team in Regensburg and the amount of collaboration I observed and participated in. While all the lab members were split up into 4 different workspaces, all the doors were constantly being opened and closed as various members would drop by to ask a question or discuss an issue. It was an honor to be surrounded by such brilliant minds. From this experience, I was able to refine some of my pre-existing wet lab skills and practice new techniques that will be useful as I continue my scientific career. I cannot thank the AG Wagner group enough for the amazing time I had working in Regensburg.



However, while I was working hard, I was also still able to "play hard"! Regensburg is a city full of fun and has events almost every weekend. Especially during the months I spent in this city, there happened to be a lot of holidays and festivals that offered something fun and new to do every week. Personally, I think our timing couldn't have been better because we got to experience so many unique events! Our first week in Regensburg was the last week of a traditional Bavarian beer festival, like Oktoberfest in Munich. Additionally, we were in Regensburg during "Bürgerfest" which only happens every two years and is a weekend full of food and fun. Near the end of my stay, my friends and I were able to go to Jazz Weekend where the whole city is filled with live jazz music the whole weekend. After work or on the weekends, it was amazing to walk around the historic town and city by the Donau to talk with friends. Regensburg is a city full of rich history and so many places to explore that you will never be bored.



I made so many memories during my time in Regensburg and am extremely grateful for the BioFrontiers Institute and Boehringer Ingelheim for making it possible. I was able to learn so much, grow as a scientist, and meet amazing people from around the globe— all things that made this experience so special to me.



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