

From our alumni: Joshua Bryan, University of Zurich / Rutgers - The State University of New Jersey (Fall 2008)

My project in Zurich focused on rheumatoid arthritis. At the time I knew little about the topic. Part of the project included using immunohistochemistry techniques to study tissue sections, which was completely new to me. Drs. Ospelt, R. Gay and S. Gay were extremely helpful with the research and live in Zurich. All the researchers in the lab were extremely friendly. Zurich is a beautiful city and I traveled to some of the nearby countries as well.

When I graduated from Rutgers, I choose to attend New Jersey Dental School. For now I have decided not to pursue research further, but I still have the option if I change my mind in the future. I know how much I learned during my time in Zurich, not only in my research project but also of the culture of Switzerland and the way research is performed abroad. It is humbling to know that while I learned a great deal through EuroScholars, I still have a lot to learn. Beginning my research really put this in perspective since the topic was new to me.

Knowing what I do now about histology and pathology, I would be better at the research I had been participating in. That may be one of the greatest strengths of participating in research. It can expose the limits of your understanding and the limits of human understanding on a topic. Then you can learn more. For now, I will pursue a career in dentistry, and I know what to expect from research if I decide to perform research again.

