

My Experience of ClostNet Fellowship.

Magdalena Kasendra, Novartis Vaccines, Siena, Italy, August 2011

My name is Magdalena Kasendra and I come from the beautiful city of Wroclaw in southwest Poland .

My experience as a ClostNet fellow started one year ago, immediately after the completion of my master degree in Microbiology. By now I can say, without any doubt, that it's the richest and most meaningful experience of my tenure as a young researcher. I'm honored to pursue my PhD in one of the largest and most widely respected pharmaceutical companies in the world – Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics located in Siena, Italy. As a Novartis student, I have an access to advanced scientific facilities and have the pleasure of being mentored by expert microbiologists and immunologists. The multicultural, friendly and warm environment made me feel at home, both at Novartis and within the town, from the very beginning. I took part in the local “feste”, fell in love with Italian language, culture and food and even supported the Sclavo Vaccines team throughout the football tournament.

I appreciate every day of my Marie Curie fellowship experience and feel extremely lucky to have the opportunity to meet and work with people who share a similar passion for science. I know of no other program that provides young researchers such unparalleled independence and unwavering support. The ClostNet Fellowship is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.