

## **ECTS Exchange Fellowship**

The purpose of the ECTS Exchange Scholarship was to learn the technique of RNA interference to be able to establish this method in my home laboratory. Thanks to the excellent technical guidance in Prof. Lorenz Hofbauer's laboratory in Marburg, Germany, I was able to perform preliminary investigations for the main project (functions of lamin A/C and lamin-associated proteins in osteoblast differentiation) in addition to establishing the technique. We found that the mineralization capacity of the osteoblasts was severely diminished after lamin A/C knock-down, likely due to decreased runx2/cbfa1 expression. Moreover, the RANKL/OPG ratio in lamin A/C-deficient osteoblasts was increased. In the future, we plan to investigate direct effects of lamin A/C-deficiency in osteoblasts on osteoclastogenesis.

Besides the technical achievements this trip entailed great personal benefits as well. I enjoyed meeting and working with new people and found it most fruitful to exchange and discuss laboratory protocols. Overall, I am very thankful to the ECTS for the possibility to work with such a motivated team and such an inspiring and amiable person as Lorenz Hofbauer.