



Ozge CEYHAN

Home Country
Turkey

Degree
Post-Doctorate
in Molecular Biology

Expertise
Molecular Biology

Research Focus
Genetics

Host University
Harvard University, United States

Fellowship Awarded
2012

Ozge Ceyhan was born in Ankara, Turkey. Her father—a pediatrician—inspired her passion for working hard to become a good scientist. While at high school, she was selected by the British Council to represent her country at the London International Youth Science Forum, based on a project in microbiology.

Ozge received the highest scores nationally on a standardized test given to all high school seniors, and was awarded a scholarship that enabled her to attend Bilkent University, Ankara, where she gained a BSc in Molecular Biology and Genetics. She also worked as an intern researcher in the Genetics Department at Hacettepe University, Ankara, where she focused on improving the diagnosis of patients with inherited disorders. In 2006, Ozge moved to Boston College, United States, to study for a PhD in Molecular Biology. There, she developed a novel high-throughput screening platform to discover potential therapeutics for adrenal diseases. In addition, she worked as a teaching assistant for undergraduate biology classes.

The postdoctoral studies will focus on rare genetic neuromuscular diseases. Although these disorders are rare, they are prevalent in populations where marriage between closely related people is common, which is the case in some regions of Turkey. The disorders can severely impair intelligence and motor abilities, and include congenital myopathies, genetic disorders which severely impair muscle function from birth. Working in one of the world's leading laboratories for neuromuscular disease and human genetics research will help Ozge's efforts to identify the genetic defects that cause congenital myopathies, and develop novel approaches for their treatment and diagnosis.

Upon completion of her post-doctoral studies, Ozge plans to return to Turkey as a research and teaching Professor in human genetics.