

CMU|Portugal – Undergraduate Internships Program

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This report summarizes my work and experience during the two-month period spent in Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), Pittsburgh, hosted by Prof. Pedro Ferreira.

I am a research assistant of the Católica-Lisbon School of Business and Economics and my work focuses on how patients and caregivers develop treatments, therapies and medical devices to improve their disease condition. This project is called Patient Innovation. Before going to CMU my main focus relied on publishing a book that translates an investigation of patients to innovate.

By invitation of Prof. Pedro Ferreira, I worked at the Engineering and Public Policy (EPP) department where I could meet people whose research addresses important problems in technology and policy in which the technical details are of central importance.

During these two months I had the opportunity to work with Professor David Hounshell, a renowned historian of science and technology who helped me in the exploration of methods to search for the sources of innovation. As one of my goals was to publish the book, he was fundamental giving me his feedback about the set of validation criteria to authenticate the sources of patient innovations.

Doug Sicker and Erica Fuchs were also very important in my stay at CMU. They guided me in the direction of talking to the right people and they gave me their feedback on my work allowing me to evolve.

I also had the opportunity to meet with Jennifer Mankhoff whose research focus is on the use of information technology as a prosthetic, extending the capabilities and knowledge of both individuals and communities. Much of her work focuses on application areas such as health and sustainability. We discussed our perspectives in the predisposition of patients to innovate and we talked about some

strategies to encourage society to find solutions beyond the medical and engineer research.

In these couple of months I also had the opportunity to attend many interesting seminars related to diverse areas such us the Academic Conference and Memorial Event, “Celebrating the Work of Steven Klepper” at Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences, CMU and “A conversation with Serkan Piantino, Facebook New York” at School of Computer Sciences, CMU.

Finally, I am very grateful to the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) and the Carnegie Mellon Portugal program for supporting my visit at CMU.

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