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*Dr. Andreas Mershin* is currently at MIT working as a post-doctoral associate at the Center for Biomedical Engineering with *Prof. S. Zhang*. He attended The Imperial College of Science and Technology in London where he earned an MSc in Physics. Andreas decided to continue his studies at Texas A&M University to work with *Prof. D. Nanopoulos* where he earned an MSc and a PhD in Physics. His MSc thesis was on 'Quantum Physics Motivated Neurobiology' while his doctoral thesis was titled 'Tubulin in Vivo, in Vitro and in Silico'. He has published extensively and has made numerous presentations in international conferences.

We asked Andreas to comment on a few topics. Here is what he was kind enough to say:

*Advice to students that could help them in their academic and professional decisions:*

- Don't listen to people who like to tell you what can't be done.
- Set goals *higher* than you think you can achieve.
- If you don't believe in yourself, no one else will.
- Most important thing: choose to do something you enjoy otherwise, even if you 'succeed', you won't feel successful.

*An evaluation of the IB preparation as a first contact with an academic environment:*

'In retrospect, I found that the Moraitis IB prepared me *more than adequately* to attend Imperial College Physics. I was better qualified than most of the A-level freshmen in my class both British and foreign. I also enjoyed a wider world view in part as a result of having taken the standard level courses and Theory of Knowledge. The extended essay experience was particularly invaluable to me later, when I started publishing scientific papers. In all, I have never regretted my decision to attend the first batch of IB students even though at the time we were all agonizing over whether anything good was going to come out of it. Especially crucial in my very positive and highly enjoyable experience at IB was the high quality of the teachers and the feeling that we were all in this together.'