

March 4, 2020

To whom it may concern

Dear Sir or Madame,

I am pleased to inform you that Ms Shiva Ganjali, a Ph.D. Candidate in Medical Biotechnology, has successfully finished her six-month fellowship period at our INSERM Research Unit 1166 located at the Faculty of Medicine Pitié-Salpêtrière of Sorbonne University, Paris, France, from September 1, 2019 to February 29, 2020.

The studies of Ms Ganjali primarily focused on biological functions of high-density lipoprotein (HDL) in patients with in-stent restenosis (ISR) and familial hypercholesterolemia (FH). She evaluated the capacity of HDL to efflux cellular cholesterol from lipid-loaded macrophages as well as to acquire free cholesterol from triglyceride-rich lipoproteins upon lipolysis in case-control studies involving patients with $>50\%$ and $\leq 50\%$ restenosis as well as in homo- and heterozygous FH patients. In parallel, compositional characterization of HDL was performed. Healthy normolipidemic subjects were studied as a control group. All biological samples required for the project were successfully collected in Iran and all recruited subjects provided their written informed consent, with their demographic data and anthropometric parameters registered.

In addition to her research project described above, Ms Ganjali evaluated the capacity of HDL to acquire free cholesterol from triglyceride-rich lipoproteins upon lipolysis in FH patients before and after LDL apheresis as well as in postprandial plasma samples obtained from healthy normolipidemic subjects. Moreover, she investigated the capacity of atorvastatin-containing DOPC/DOPS liposomal formulations to efflux cellular cholesterol from lipid-loaded macrophages.

I need to emphasize that Ms Ganjali possesses excellent professional qualities as a researcher. She is hard-working, rapid, persevering, solid, regular and autonomous in her work. Over her career, she has gained a strong expertise in cell culture, molecular biology, preparative biochemistry, fluorometry, analytical biochemistry and lipidomics. In addition, she excellently knows available literature on the topic of her research. During her stay at our laboratory, she worked independently, demonstrating her ability to pursue a new research project rapidly and to carry it through to completion. Last but not least, she is a kind, friendly and pleasant person dedicated to her work.

Ms Ganjali has already published seven peer-reviewed articles as a first author and eight articles as a co-author. I am persuaded that the data obtained during her research stay in Paris should allow publishing several articles in high impact factor journals within a short time period when the data analysis is completed.

In summary, Ms Shiva Ganjali is a dedicated, talented, hardworking, good decision-making and friendly individual who, in my opinion, has a great potential to eventually become an outstanding researcher in her field.

With best regards,



Dr. Anatol Kontush, BSc (Hons), PhD
Research Director
INSERM Research Unit 1166 – ICAN, Faculty of Medicine Pitié-Salpêtrière, Sorbonne
University, 91, bd de l'Hôpital, 75013 Paris, France
Tel. (33) (1) 40 77 96 33. Fax (33) (1) 40 77 96 45. E-mail anatol.kontush@upmc.fr