



University of British Columbia
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

May 19, 2014

Dr. Akbar Mirsalehian
Professor and Chairman
Dept. of Microbiology
Faculty of Medicine
Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Re: Dr. Farhad Bonakdar Hashemi Research Progress

Dear Dr. Mirsalehian,

I would like to hereby approve Dr. Farhad Bonakdar Hashemi's 12-month progress report regarding his research project in my laboratory. Dr. Hashemi is investigating mechanisms for latency in HIV/ AIDS virus as a visiting associate professor from Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS). He has been in my laboratory for almost 12 months and has achieved exciting results, which will be soon reported as a manuscript. (see attached report).

In addition to studying mechanisms of HIV latency in transformed and primary T cells, Dr. Hashemi has been instrumental in initiating collaborative projects with several other research groups in the USA as well as UBC. His considerable experience with clinical aspects of HIV and its assay techniques, as well as his skills in working with clinical isolates has provided valuable expertise that is necessary for our ongoing research. In addition, Dr. Hashemi's proficiency, as a mentor, has been invaluable to maintain continuity of our research projects.

I am glad that Dr. Hashemi has decided to continue his sabbatical in my laboratory. Based on Dr. Hashemi's data, we are currently preparing a manuscript for imminent submission to J. of Virology. I would like to thank your department as well as the "TUMS Committee for Research" for facilitating Dr. Hashemi's sabbatical. In order to complete the tasks at hand, I would like to request a 2-month extension of his sabbatical.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Best regards,

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