

To whom it may concern

I am writing this reference letter to confirm the collaboration of Dr. Zhila Maghbooli with the laboratory of Neurobiology in Príncipe Felipe Research Centre (Centro de Investigación Príncipe Felipe) in Valencia from January 2022 to 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

She worked on sabbatical leave from the Neuroscience Institute of Tehran University of Medical Science.

During this time, Dr. Zhila Maghbooli designed and developed a project entitled "Investigating the effects of 1,25 OH2 D3 on Th17/Tregs balance of hyperammonemic rats: an ex-vivo study".

She has also participated actively in the lab collaborating in another project entitled "Role of extracellular vesicles in cognitive and motor impairment in hyperammonemia and hepatic encephalopathy. Molecular mechanisms and therapeutic implications". She has analyzed several inflammaory markers in peripheral blood mononuclear cells at different times in rats with hyperammonemia.

She demonstrated to be a quick learner and she did not hesitate to expand her knowledge to animal models of hepatic encephalopathy and to immunohistochemistry, western blot, ex vivo analysis technique in slices, and image analysis.

Dr. Zhila Maghbooli showed great technical and social skills during her work. She displayed great dedication and passion for the lab's work. She works responsibly, with great initiative, willingness, and effectiveness. Of note, she did her project independently and rigorously.

Her personal qualities are also excellent, showing good skills to work as part of a team. She has participated actively in our lab meetings. She has a great interest in the investigation and an excellent critical ability to discuss scientific issues and she is completely consecrated to science and human health.

Do contact me if you have any further questions.

Vicente Felipo,

Head of the Neurobiology Laboratory

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