



Universidad
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International Society of Neurochemistry
Committee for Aid and Education in Neurochemistry

Dear members of the Committee,

I am the Director and Principal Researcher of the Immunology section at CIMA (Centro de Investigación Médica Aplicada, *Center of Applied Medical Research*) of the University of Navarra located in Pamplona, Spain. I have supervised Antonela Sofía Asad during her four months stay at my laboratory last year, where she worked with my group in her Fellowship project “Development of a peptide inhibitor of the interaction between CD160 and BTLA with HVEM to increase antitumoral immunity against brain cancer”.

Antonela arrived to Pamplona in August 2018 and immediately started working in our lab. Soon after joining our lab, she demonstrated she was extremely gifted for research. Indeed, she proved to have not only high initiative but also great motivation to learn new techniques and to plan and suggest experiments to solve research problems. She has a great intellectual capacity, critical thinking and a constructive mind. My laboratory group collaborated with her scientific training and I am pleased to say she easily adapted to our working environment. The goal of Antonela’s project was to develop HVEM-CRD1 peptides that inhibit the function of CD160 and BTLA. She was able to find two peptides with great inhibitory potential of the interaction between HVEM with CD160 and BTLA, which greatly stimulated the proliferation and cytokine production of cells from the immune system.

Thanks to the support of ISN-CAEN, Antonela will be able to use the results obtained for the development of her doctoral thesis. Her lab in Argentina is currently evaluating the therapeutic effect of the selected HVEM peptides in Glioblastoma models, given that they develop strategies to impair brain tumor immunosuppressive microenvironment.

I think Antonela successfully accomplished the goals of her proposed project and I believe she will be able to apply many of the new techniques she has learned in our laboratory now that she is back in Argentina. This Fellowship is an excellent opportunity for students and young researchers to receive training in international institutes. Furthermore, this experience has been very useful for us to further consolidate the collaboration between Dr. Candolfi’s group and my group in Pamplona.

Sincerely,

Juan José Lasarte Sagastibelza, PhD
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