



Rome, 18<sup>th</sup> of November, 2019

**To whom it may concern,**

I have spent one-month period (October 2019) at Division of Allergy and Immunology, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Ohio, USA, under mentorship of Prof. Marc E. Rothenberg MD, PhD.

During my staying, I have been integrated in the Cincinnati Center for Eosinophilic Disorders (CCED). This unit represents the most renowned research unit for these often-misunderstood conditions, since it integrates multidisciplinary basic studies, with particular emphasis on modern genetic approaches, translational research and clinical studies designed to test proof-of-concept theories and novel therapeutics directly in humans. The CCED strives to translate the research into clinical utility and practice.

Dr. Marc Rothenberg has been the supervisor during this exchange program. He is the director of the Division of Allergy and Immunology at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and professor of pediatrics at Cincinnati Children's within the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. His research is focused on molecular analysis of allergic inflammation, primarily on the molecular pathogenesis of eosinophilic esophagitis. His publications number over 300. He has trained a myriad of clinical and research investigators in his own laboratory and also as Program Director and/or Co-Principal Investigator of several NIH training grants.

As one of the international visiting scientists, I have been included in several educational opportunities at the Rothenberg Laboratory. Indeed, the Rothenberg Laboratory has a high-energy, dynamic and interactive environment and is interested in recruiting self-motivated individuals with the drive to succeed and the desire to be competitive at the international level. During this phase, my day to day activities were focused on diverse methods in the lab, ranging from planning and evaluation of experiments, to participation at internal meetings and international conferences. In this excellent institution, I had the opportunity to master a combination of skills that are not taught together in traditional training programs. I could also participate in didactic coursework about research methods, epidemiology, biostatistics, research management, ethics, basic research and scientific communication provided by The Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Prof. Rothenberg has monitored my incorporation and understanding of translational research essentials to obtain positive outcomes from this training program.

Finally, I have also learned how to perform and interpret the molecular diagnostic test called "the eosinophilic esophagitis diagnostic panel" (EDP) in the Rothenberg Laboratory. The EDP panel has been demonstrated of critical importance to better classify EoE in endotypes with different phenotypic presentation and managements.



I would like to express my gratitude to ESPGHAN for awarding an International Exchange Program Grant, providing me the opportunity to get this amazing experience in the field of EoE translational research.

The grant was used to cover my travel expenses, accommodation as well as my local travel costs.

Once again, thank you

Yours sincerely,

Salvatore Oliva MD, PhD

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