

March 12, 2021

To whom it may concern

Dear Sir or Madame,

I am grateful to inform you that Ms. Muna AlBalushi, a master Candidate in Clinical Biochemistry, has successfully finished her fellowship at Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman, from November 2019 to November, 2020.

I have supervised Muna AlBalushi in her project on Genetic Characterization of Familial Hypertriglyceridemia. Hypertriglyceridemia (HTG) is a risk factors of cardiovascular disease. Impaired clearance of triglyceride rich lipoproteins, VLDL and chylomicrons, as well as excessive intake and synthesis, are the leading causes of HTG. Muna has looked for mutations in 6 candidate genes that cause familial HTG: lipoprotein lipase (LPL), apolipoprotein C-II (*APOC2*), apolipoprotein A-5 (*APOA5*), glycosyl- phosphatidylinositol anchored high density lipoprotein binding protein (*GPIHBP1*), lipase maturation factor 1 (*LMF1*) and apolipoprotein E (*ApoE*) genes. She studied 12 affected individuals that have familial hypertriglyceridemia with TGs level above 11.2 mmol/L. Seventeen healthy relatives were recruited as study control group. She identified three 3 novel pathogenic variants in *LPL* gene in majority of patients and were segregating in the families. In mutation negative individuals, she has done whole exome sequencing and currently in the data analysis.

Ms Muna work has helped in developing her knowledge and skills in molecular biology and the fellowship helped her in finalizing her thesis for Master degree. She will utilize the fund of present for upcoming ISA meeting in Japan. Her work has opened door to study other familial cases related to lipid disorders

Best regards

Fahad Al Zadjali, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Biochemistry
College of Medicine & Health Sciences
Assistant Dean , Deanship of Research
Sultan Qaboos University, Oman
phone (office): +968 24141187
P.O box 35, PC 123, ALkhod , Oman
fahadz@squ.edu.om

