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ISRHML – Family Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation

# **trainee expansion program**

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## **Minute – Science Review Board**

<b>Meeting</b>		
<b>Date</b>	Thursday, January 25, 2018	
<b>Members</b>	Shannon L. Kelleher, Chair	Present
	Christina (Tina) Chambers	Present
	Evette van Niekerk	Present
	Kim F. Michaelsen	Present
	Nathan Nickel	Excused
	Teresa da Costa	Present
	Valérie Verhasselt	Excused
<b>Secretary</b>	Kathrin Litwan	Present



Agenda	
1.	Welcome
2.	Quorum
3.	Review of TTF applications
4.	Decisions

Agenda topic		
N°	Topic	Status/Comment
1.	Welcome	Shannon Kelleher welcomes the attendees.
2.	Quorum	As of Annex 4 in the Sponsorship Agreement for the Trainee Expansion Program (TEP) the SRB is quorate with 5 out of 7 members present. With 5 of the 7 members present on the call (see above) the board is quorate.
3.	Review of TTF applications	<p>Shannon Kelleher proposes to discuss the application in the following way: The primary reviewer presents the application and his/her review. The secondary reviewer will add his/her comments to it. Afterwards, the other board members can ask questions and the discussion will be opened.</p> <p><b>a. Alba BOIX AMORÓS</b> Kim Michaelsen (primary reviewer) presents the application and the applicant's background. The application addresses an important and relevant topic, subclinical mastitis. Donna Geddes as mentor is described as an excellent mentor from who the applicant will benefit. But Kim Michaelsen also questions the mentor's experience with microbiota. Kim Michaelsen also misses detailed information on the hypothesis and the biomarkers which will be analysed. The applicant and the mentor in her support letter mention different possible biomarkers which will be analysed during the project. Nevertheless, Kim Michaelsen supports the application since it discusses a relevant topic. Shannon Kelleher as secondary reviewer shares the evaluation of Kim Michaelsen regarding the vague description of the chosen analysis. Shannon Kelleher appreciates the novel approach of the project and the importance of the chosen topic. Both reviewers initially scored the application as "excellent" (3).</p> <p>Shannon Kelleher asks the members for their final scores for the application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shannon L. Kelleher: 3</li> <li>• Christina (Tina) Chambers: 3</li> <li>• Evette van Niekerk: 3</li> <li>• Kim Michaelsen: 3</li> <li>• Teresa da Costa: 3</li> <li>• <b>Average score: 3</b></li> </ul> <p><b>b. Anita ESQUERRA ZWIERS</b> Evette van Niekerk presents the application as primary reviewer. The application discusses an important topic. It is a well written applicant with well-defined learning objectives and activities, a reasonable budget and a clear time line. Evette van Niekerk supports this application. Her rated the application with "excellent" (3). Kim Michaelsen (secondary reviewer) agrees with Evette van Niekerk's evaluation of the application. He appreciates the clear claim of the application and the choice of the host institution. The applicant will certainly profit from the project. He sees this application as a bit superior compared to the application of Alba Boix Amorós but also rates this application of Anita as "excellent" (3). Shannon Kelleher asks if the applicant wants to learn how to collect milk samples rather than to analyse her own samples. As Evette van Niekerk understood, milk samples will be shipped and analysed during the project. Shannon Kelleher adds that the application seems vague in the detailed description of the expansion as the application only mentions the analysis of biomarkers without defining the biomarkers. Evette van Niekerk agrees on this comment.</p> <p>Shannon Kelleher asks the members for their final scores for the application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shannon L. Kelleher: 3</li> <li>• Christina (Tina) Chambers: 3</li> <li>• Evette van Niekerk: 3</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kim Michaelsen: 3</li> <li>• Teresa da Costa: 3</li> <li>• <b>Average score: 3</b></li> </ul> <p><b>c. Camille DUGAS</b></p> <p>As the primary reviewer, Nathan Nickel, is not on the call, Evette van Niekerk as secondary reviewer presents the application that clearly defines the plan of the project. Evette van Niekerk misses information in the application such as a clear time line and information how the project links to the applicant’s PhD studies. The chosen training institution is appropriate and supports the application. She also mentions the relatively low budget request. Evette van Niekerk support the application since it would be a good experience for the applicant and her PhD study. Evette van Niekerk scored the application as “excellent” (3). Nathan Nickel as primary reviewer scored the application as “very good” (4).</p> <p>Shannon Kelleher comments on the challenging nature of the chosen analysis and the fact that the applicant has no lab experience. She thinks it will be very hard for the applicant to get enough information from the analysis due to her missing lab experience.</p> <p>Kim Michaelsen mentions the rather low academic record of the mentor as it was also alluded by Nathan Nickel in his review.</p> <p>The SRB would like to explicitly mention to the CB that the goals seem a bit over ambitious and the time frame is very tight.</p> <p>Shannon Kelleher asks the members for their final scores for the application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shannon L. Kelleher: 4</li> <li>• Christina (Tina) Chambers: 4</li> <li>• Evette van Niekerk: 4</li> <li>• Kim Michaelsen: 4</li> <li>• Teresa da Costa: 3</li> <li>• <b>Average score: 3.8</b></li> </ul> <p><b>d. Kristen MEYER</b></p> <p>Since neither of the reviewers is on the call, SK reads out the general comments from the reviewers. Valérie Verhasselt is concerned about the very short time (the applicant plans to stay 5 weeks at the host institution). Nevertheless, Valérie Verhasselt thinks that the project will be successful. She scored the application as “outstanding” – “excellent” (2-3). Nathan Nickel describes the programme as a unique learning opportunity for the applicant. As the applicant has a highly productive track record, Nathan Nickel thinks that she will immensely benefit from this opportunity. But also, the host lab will benefit from the stay of the applicant. Therefore, he rates the application as a high priority training opportunity and rates it as “exceptional” (1). The SRB members comment on the budget which does not allocate any budget to the analysis but only to the accommodation and travel expenses of the applicant. Teresa da Costa thinks that the applicant might already have an existing collaboration with the mentoring lab.</p> <p>The SRB appreciates the very supportive letter of the host mentor and the choice of the training institution which seems as a perfect place to learn this type of analysis.</p> <p>Evette van Niekerk expresses her support for this application but also expresses her concern regarding the timeline.</p> <p>Kim Michaelsen thinks that the applicant might also be able to do this expansion without the support of TEP. He also agrees on the very short timeline.</p> <p>Shannon Kelleher holds that the project as outline is doable within the given timeline if the applicant on-site.</p> <p>Shannon Kelleher asks the members for their final scores for the application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shannon L. Kelleher: 1</li> <li>• Christina (Tina) Chambers: 2</li> <li>• Evette van Niekerk: 2</li> <li>• Kim Michaelsen: 3</li> <li>• Teresa da Costa: 2</li> <li>• <b>Average score: 2</b></li> </ul> <p><b>e. Rukshan MEHTA</b></p> <p>Teresa da Costa presents the application as primary reviewer. The applicant is more on the social health side and has only recently moved into the breastfeeding field. The project is a cooperation between the American and Indian research lab. The host institution is very</p>
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	<p>supportive of the application. The applicant is fluent in English as well in the regional Indian language as she has a dual citizenship Canada-India. Teresa da Costa appreciates that the applicant seems to be very closely connected to the project. The host as well as the home supervisors are very supportive of the applicant and describe her as very motivated and hard working. The host mentor is well established in India and well trained in the subject of question. The Indian lab also seems to be well equipped. Teresa da Costa scores the application as “excellent” (3).</p> <p>Christina Chamber as secondary reviewer is less enthusiastic than primary reviewer Teresa da Costa. She misses information in the application why the applicant chooses to analysis mycotoxin. This information was only given in the support letter. But Christina Chambers rates the project as a good chance for the applicant to move into the field of breastfeeding. She points out that only the last publication of the applicant is on nutrition. Christina Chambers further mentions the vague time line and the vague description of the role of the second lab. Christina Chamber originally rated the application as “fair” (7).</p> <p>Teresa da Costa mentions the importance of this opportunity for the applicant to earn lab experience.</p> <p>Kim Michaelsen highlights the location of the project as it is hosted in India and that the applicant has previously worked in Africa. He thinks this should be positively taken into account in the evaluation.</p> <p>Christina Chambers clarifies that she is not against funding this application. But she thinks that this application is not as strong as the second application she was reviewing. But due to the discussion, Christina Chambers would like to raise her original score from “fair” to “good” (5).</p> <p>Shannon Kelleher mentions that she was not very excited about the application on the first sight. But the comments and the conversation and especially the comment from Kim Michaelsen about the location aspect of the application made her to improve her initial evaluation of the application.</p> <p>Teresa da Costa summarizes the evaluation on the applicant that she is not very much into breastfeeding but very enthusiastic about the project and knows the project very well.</p> <p>Shannon Kelleher asks the members for their final scores for the application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shannon L. Kelleher: 3</li><li>• Christina (Tina) Chambers: 4</li><li>• Evette van Niekerk: 3</li><li>• Kim Michaelsen: 3</li><li>• Teresa da Costa: 3</li><li>• <b>Average score: 3.2</b></li></ul> <p><b>f. Shirin MOSSAVI</b></p> <p>Christina Chambers as primary reviewer provides an overall review. Valérie Verhasselt as secondary reviewer is not on the call but rated the application as “outstanding”. Christina Chambers describes the application as very strong. The application is very well written and consistent with the overall goal. The application provides a good time line as well as a good training plan and a reasonable budget but misses a hypothesis. Christina Chambers evaluates the training experience as very consistent with the goal of the applicant. Christina Chambers highlights that the project will be a good opportunity for the applicant to learn a technique the applicant does not know. The application is strongly supported by the mentor who has a strong academic and mentoring record. Christina Chambers thinks that the project is accomplishable within the time. Christina Chambers rates the application as “outstanding” (2).</p> <p>Shannon Kelleher mentions that Valérie Verhasselt has evaluated the application similar to the evaluation of Christina Chambers.</p> <p>Teresa da Costa asks if the applicant is lab trained. Christina Chamber affirms that the applicant has lab experience.</p> <p>Shannon Kelleher rates this application as the strongest application in this round. She is very supportive for the application.</p> <p>Teresa da Costa agrees with Shannon Kelleher and adds that this application is also the best written application.</p> <p>Shannon Kelleher asks the members for their final scores for the application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shannon L. Kelleher: 2</li><li>• Christina (Tina) Chambers: 2</li><li>• Evette van Niekerk: 2</li><li>• Kim Michaelsen: 2</li></ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teresa da Costa: 2</li><li>• <b>Average score: 2</b></li></ul>
4.	Decisions	<p>The SRB unanimously decides to calculate the average scores for each application and to use an average score of 4.0 as a cut-off to propose to the CB. Further, the SRB decides to provide the CB with comment. This will be covered with the anonymous comments from the SRB discussion which is prepared by Kathrin Litwan.</p> <p>The decisions and recommendations to the CB are outlined in the following sections.</p>

For the TEP Science Review Board:

Zug, January 25, 2018

Place and Date



Kathrin Litwan  
TEP Coordinator

ISRHML – Family Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation

# **trainee expansion program**

## **Decision Note – Science Review Board**

<b>Meeting</b>		
<b>Date</b>	Thursday, January 25, 2018	
<b>Members</b>	Shannon L. Kelleher, Chair	Present
	Christina (Tina) Chambers	Present
	Evette van Niekerk	Present
	Kim F. Michaelsen	Present
	Nathan Nickel	Excused
	Teresa da Costa	Present
	Valérie Verhasselt	Excused
<b>Secretary</b>	Kathrin Litwan	Present

The TEP Science Review Board decides on Thursday, January 25, 2018 the following:

<b>Decisions taken</b>		
<b>N°</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1.	Shannon Kelleher proposes to use an average score of 4.0 as a cut-off for TTF application to propose to the Counsel Board.	The Scientific Review Board unanimously agrees to use an average score of 4.0 as a cut-off for the TBF applications.
2.	According to the before agreed-on cut-off of 4.0, following TTF applications are proposed to the Counsel Board (alphabetic listing): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alba Boix Amorós</li> <li>• Anita Esquerra Zwiers</li> <li>• Camille Dugas</li> <li>• Kristen Meyer</li> <li>• Rukshan Mehta</li> <li>• Shirin Moossavi</li> </ul>	The Scientific Review Board unanimously agrees on the mentioned six TTF applications to proceed to the Counsel Board for final decision.

For the TEP Science Review Board:

Lowell, MA, USA January 30, 2018  
Place and Date



Shannon L. Kelleher  
Chair of the TEP Science Review Board

San Diego, CA, USA, January 30, 2018  
Place and Date



Christina D. Chambers  
Member of the TEP Science Review Board