

Universitätsklinikum Bonn, Venusberg-Campus 1, 53127 Bonn

To Whom It May Concern

Bonn, 11. Januar 2021

Letter of recommendation for Nicole Leib, born in Gießen, Germany

Nicole Leib, born in Gießen, Germany, worked in the Laboratory of Immunobiology at the Department of Dermatology and Allergy, University Hospital Bonn, Germany from September 2011 to December 2019. She initially started as a PhD student under my supervision and proceeded as an independent postdoctoral fellow.

Nicole Leib analyzed TLR2-dependent regulatory mechanisms of the Fc $\epsilon$ RI expression on primary human dendritic cells in the context of atopic dermatitis and TLR2-induced tolerogenic mechanisms in dendritic cells. Applying density gradient and automated magnetic cell sorting, she purified hematopoietic stem cells from cord blood or monocytes from blood or Buffy coat and differentiated those *in vitro* into Langerhans cells or inflammatory epidermal dendritic cells, respectively. For analyses of phenotype and function she applied methods such as flow cytometry, Western blot, quantitative RT-PCR, and fluorescence microscopy. Additionally, she established micro-RNA TaqMan assays and the challenging transfection of primary human dendritic cells in our group. She regularly presented her results not only in our seminars but also in talks or poster presentations at international meetings like the World Immune Regulation Meeting (WIRM), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Immunologie (DGfI) Conferences or the Collegium Internationale Allergologicum (CIA) Symposia usually in English. The success of her research work is reflected by her outstanding PhD thesis (grade *magna cum laude*) and several publications in excellent journals of the field<sup>1-6</sup>.

During her time in our research group Nicole Leib supervised bachelor students in their practical trainings and bachelor theses and as a postdoc lead her team, composed of one technician and one PhD student, in an exemplary professional way. This involved the development of projects for defined time lines, monitoring of the projects during their progress, and flexible adjustment of milestones in response to new experimental results. Additionally, she developed SOP and experimental instruction protocols for the technical support, validated new materials and optimized and validated experimental setups.

Apart from her basic research work, Nicole Leib supported the clinical study

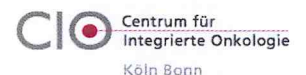
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Network



“PRORAD” (funded by CK-CARE) especially in terms of cost calculation and process optimization of the laboratory part in Bonn, Germany. Additionally, she was involved in project development, preliminary evaluation of several methods, and cost estimation and negotiation.

In the general laboratory management Nicole Leib was involved in application processes of technicians and students in terms of preselection and interviews and her opinion was very much appreciated. Nicole Leib was responsible for several laboratory equipment/devices, order processes and additionally helped colleagues and especially international co-workers with administrative processes in the institution.

Nicole Leib is an extremely conscientious and solution orientated person who can successfully work in a team as well as independently. She is very well organized due to her excellent time management. Her supervision and her communication is consistently clear and precise and her criticism is always constructive resulting in amazing improvements of the projects or processes. She takes responsibility for herself, but also for her colleagues and team and does not hesitate to make decisions. However, apart from this professional profile, Nicole Leib still cares for the needs of the students or colleagues entrusted to her, shows empathy for the dissatisfaction after failure or has an open ear in case of uncertainty. Nicole Leib always behaved in an exemplary manner towards her colleagues and superiors.

After more than 8 years, Nicole Leib decided to face new challenges and leave our group. As a reliable, caring and friendly person she was an enrichment for our team and leaves a big gap in every sense, scientifically, organizationally, humanly. We, and in particular me, lose an excellent colleague who definitely proved to be an essential column of the Laboratory of Immunobiology in the last years.

I wish Nicole Leib all the best for her professional and her personal future and hope to cross her way once and again. It was my greatest pleasure to work with her.

With best regards,



(Nadine Herrmann)

#### REFERENCES

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