

To whom it may concern: **Parth Pandit**

Parth completed the project phase of his Masters project in my laboratory during 2022. His project was based around our attempts to understand the biology of zinc alpha-2 glycoprotein (hereafter ZAG). ZAG is proposed to play a role in cancer cachexia and is released from adipose cells. We are interested in two aspects of this protein – and Parth contributed to both these. ZAG has an MHC-like fold which is thought to bind a hydrophobic ligand. We are attempting to identify this ligand using computer modelling, and Parth contributed to this, quickly developing skills in using the required software and showed good understanding of this. Arising from our modelling, we generated some point mutants in which the proposed binding cleft on ZAG may be disrupted. Parth expressed these mutants in bacteria, purified them and was initiating experiments to test their biological action when his project ended.

Thus, he has gained a wide array of techniques including basic cell biology, molecular skills, recombinant protein purification and SDS-PAGE/immunoblotting, in addition to this in silico work.

Parth showed terrific commitment and diligence, worked hard and effectively, and wasn't afraid to seek guidance and act upon it. He worked closely with a PhD student who commented favourably on his work. Importantly, he fitted in well within a large and diverse grouping on our research floor.

I think he will make a fine PhD student.

Yours sincerely,



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