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Dear members of the Bristol University selection process,

I am very pleased to give references about Mr. Felipe Aguilera who obtained his master's degree in biotechnology from the University Andres Bello, Chile on this year.

I have known him for four years and he did his undergraduate thesis under my direction. Currently works as technical support in one of my research projects on bioremediation of aromatic compounds.

He has always had an impressive motivation for science to be very proactive for the fulfillment of the objectives. One of his goals in life is to do his doctorate in an important European University.

He always goes beyond what is asked, suggesting additional ideas, improving methodologies and an intense curiosity that leads him to constantly read scientific publications. Felipe possesses skills for oral and written communication, but he comes from a Spanish-speaking country and even though he can communicate in English, he should improve it during the stay there.

He has done his research on heavy metals resistant bacteria that also have degradation pathways of aromatic compounds. Felipe has acquired a high competence in molecular biology, therefore possesses the required skills to do his PhD in synthetic biology in there.

Felipe has made a three-month internship in the department of microbiology of the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre acquiring extensive experience in molecular techniques such as microarray, gene deletion and other, gaining experience about how to work in European institutions, which will play much in his favor.

Recently, we have finish a paper based on his results that will be submitted to an important journal.

I believe that Felipe will become a passionate and recognized academic providing great success to the scientific world. For these reasons, I strongly recommend that Mr. Felipe Aguilera be accepted in the Synthetic Biology (BBSRC and EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training) of University of Bristol.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Luis Rojas