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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Ms Sara BACHIRI, Masters student in Bioinformatics, Univ. of Nantes, France

This is a state that Ms Sara Bachiri, a Masters student in Bioinformatics in University of Nantes, France conducted a 6 months (during March-August 2017) Masters project in my research group in Bangalore, India.

Ms Bachiri's project is aimed at understanding structural variability associated with enzymes especially at the active sites. She used the abstract representation of complex 3-D structures of proteins in the form of protein blocks. She used the example of caspases to understand the variability of structure in an enzyme. She further used a few data sets of homologous enzymes of known structure and assessed the variability in backbone conformation of functional residues. Ms Bachiri's analysis has led to some important new learning on the evolution of conformation of active site residues in enzymes. We are hoping to take the lead generated by Ms Bachiri and progress further in the project and hopefully mature it to a quality publication with Ms Bachiri as an author.

Ms Bachiri is an excellent student. She picked up all the skills and techniques to conduct the project quite quickly. She wrote several computer programs with great efficiency and handled the large volume of structural data in a highly disciplined fashion. She is quite hard working and sincere. Ms Bachiri has outstanding communication skills. She is a great listener and excellent in expressing herself both in oral and written communication. Wishing her all the very best in her future endeavours.

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