March 5th, 2019

**Principal Investigator:** Leigh Greathouse, PhD, MPH, MS, RD

**Co-PI:** Ramon Lavado, Ph.D.

**RE:** Illuminate Proposal

Dear Review Committee,

As Assistant Professor of Environmental Sciences, I fully endorse the proposed study **Development of precision medicine prebiotics using mini-bioreactor arrays (MBRAs)**.

I am happy to be a part of this study and to assist Dr. Greathouse with metabolite analysis of short-chain fatty acids. This work fits perfectly with research I am currently conducting in my laboratory and with that of my other collaborators. We have recently received funding to profile over 360 lipids in cell culture systems and in human muscle, and thus I have the expertise and standards necessary to complete this type of analysis.

The results from this study will lay the ground work for a larger multi-phase study that is well-positioned to address the need for prebiotic formulations and treatments to combat infections. Ultimately, this research will lead to a significant opportunity for other researchers at Baylor University to take advantage of this cutting-edge system, and potentially be used to recruit highly research-active investigators to Baylor.

This project has tremendous promise not only for Dr. Greathouse but also for Baylor University. Further, I believe it will develop into a highly impactful long-term collaboration with exceptional external funding opportunities from multiple agencies, and that will generate innovative research on the diet-microbiome relationship. Overall, I am well positioned to provide excellent support for this study and we look forward to collaboration to facilitate Baylor’s mission of R1 Status.

Sincerely,

Ramon Lavado, Ph.D.

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