

Nijmegen, 22 November 2018

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am Henrik Eckermann's Research Master Behavioural Science thesis supervisor and am writing this letter in support of his participation in a conference. With this letter I want to confirm that the Mind, Mood and Microbes conference (2<sup>nd</sup> International conference; Amsterdam, 17-18 January, 2019) will be a very valuable addition to the master program that Henrik is following.

The conference is tightly connected to both the minor and the major research project as part of the 2-year-program. The minor research project is the largest module of the first year whereas the major project (master thesis) is the main part of the second year of the program. In his minor project, Henrik researched effects of early life stress on gut microbial composition in infants. He will present a poster about this project at the conference (Title: Does early attendance to center-based childcare alter children's intestinal microbiota?, Authors: Henrik Eckermann, Gerben Hermes, Willem de Vos, Carolina de Weerth) . In his major project, he will examine the relationship between gut microbiota composition and executive functioning in healthy children.

The Mind, Mood and Microbes conference will bring together leading experts in the academic field to present the newest developments about microbiota-gut-brain-axis research. Henrik will learn about these newest developments and get into contact with people who work on similar projects, which will help him with his own project and his further career. Furthermore, presenting a poster at a conference is part of the competences of a professional researcher. This conference will also be a great opportunity to present his project in front of other experts in the field of his study.

Attending the conference and presenting a research poster will therefore be an important addition to the regular program.

Kind regards,



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