

Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine  
Henry Wellcome Building of Genomic Medicine,  
Roosevelt Drive, Oxford, OX3 7BN  
Tel: +44 (0)1865 287 651 Fax: +44 (0)1865 287 533  
julian@well.ox.ac.uk www.well.ox.ac.uk/knight-j



19<sup>th</sup> March 2019

To whom it may concern,  
Graduate Studies Office  
Medical Sciences Division

**Alicia Lledo Lara GSO.3 submission - Letter of support for an extended word count**

I am writing to request that the DPhil submission by Alicia Lledo Lara may proceed with an extended word count.

Alicia's thesis will be approximately 58,000 words. In normal circumstances I would guide the candidate in further reduction in length however I feel that is not feasible in this instance for a number of reasons.

The main factor is that Alicia is currently suffering with mental health problems which have resulted in her being granted an extension in time by the Board. She has done very well to complete writing her thesis to a very high standard but further work on the thesis will be hard for her.

The second factor relates to the scope of Alicia's thesis. This has been broad, encompassing two diseases (psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis) with application of a number of different -omic technologies across different cell types and tissues and a range of downstream analysis tools. As she has been involved in both wet and dry lab aspects of data generation and analysis, she has devoted substantial components of the thesis to introducing and appraising technologies/analysis tools as well as her data interpretation. It has therefore been challenging for her to encompass this within the narrative arc of her thesis as well as presenting and interpreting her findings.

In conclusion, I hope that you will be able to consider this request for Alicia to submit with an extended word count.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian Knight".

Julian Knight, MA MBChB FRCP DPhil  
Professor of Genomic Medicine  
Honorary Consultant Physician  
Tutor in Medicine and Fellow, Merton College

*As DGS for the NDM I am happy to support this request for the reasons set out by Professor Knight.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Gilbert".

*Professor Robert Gilbert, DGS, NDM*