



**ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI ASTROFISICA**  
**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ASTROPHYSICS**

**OSSERVATORIO ASTRONOMICO DI PADOVA**



**TO:** Giovanni Bignami prize Board

**FROM:** dr. R. Claudi (Staff Astronomer)

INAF: Astronomical Observatory of Padova

vicolo Osservatorio, 5, 35122 Padova

Italy

**OBJECT:** Letter of recommendation in Favor of dr. Eleonora Alei.

I met Eleonora Alei at the Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza" during the academic year 2013/2014. I held there some lectures on exoplanet research and I found her to be deeply interested in the field. I agreed to be her tutor for her Bachelor's thesis on the dynamics and chemistry of Hot Jupiters atmospheres. I suddenly appreciated her as a hard-working, passionate student. We kept in touch even during the subsequent two years of her Master's degree, where she continued studying autonomously the latest discoveries in the exoplanets field. I agreed to be her supervisor during the Master's thesis; she showed a deep interest in the theory of atmospheric modeling, so I helped her join a starting project among various INAF institutes on building a 1D radiative-convective retrieval code for terrestrial atmospheres. For this work of thesis, she graduated with distinction.

She won a Ph.D. position at the University of Padua, to continue our project on terrestrial atmospheres modeling. At present, I am following her advancements, as well as appreciating her solid foundation in Physics, Astrophysics, and informatics.

In the frame of her Ph.D. work, she gained a wide experience in theoretical astronomy, especially in radiative transfer modeling. Due to the diversity of tasks assigned to her, which range from management of data archives to technical supervision of the stellar light simulator, I noticed propensity for teamwork and management, as well as ability in software programming in different languages.

As her supervisor, I had the opportunity to know part of Eleonora's research very closely and appreciated her reliability, talent, and professionalism when dealing with different astronomical problems. She is a dedicated person that addresses difficult problems with method and patience, making use of the information available in the scientific literature, often re-elaborating it in an original way.

In addition, I had also the opportunity to know her as a very friendly person, with a talent for scientific talking in both conferences and public events.

Considering the experience and working skills already gained by Eleonora, I am certain that she would be able to express her full potential and pursue successfully any task you would like to assign to her.

Therefore, I am very pleased to support dr. Eleonora Alei's application for "Giovanni Bignami" Prize

In case of any further questions, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Riccardo Claudi

Astronomer

INAF Astronomical Observatory of Padova