

Cambridge, 7th June 2020

Concerns: Dr Marco Chiapello

I am writing with utmost enthusiasm about my experience to work with Dr. Marco Chiapello who joined my laboratory as a talented young researcher in February 2010, already then with an extensive expertise in proteomics. Dr Chiapello has joined my laboratory while I was an Assistant Professor at the University of Lausanne to take a lead in the design of a proteomics approach to the identification of the protein constituents of specific plasma membrane sub-domains central to nutrient transfer and signaling in plant-fungal symbioses. Dr Chiapello was aware of the high risk associated with this project because of the inaccessibility of membrane proteins and a prolonged investment period without certainty of success was anticipated. Yet, he ambitiously and successfully took responsibility for the project and developed an improved methodology to achieve a satisfactory level of sensitivity and robustness of peptide detection. Dr. Chiapello's experimental, computational and statistical knowledge has been his particular strength and enabled him to cover the full range from data production to data analysis and mining. His systematical, stepwise improvements led to the well merited establishment of a protocol that now permits progress beyond our highest expectation, setting new standards in membrane proteomics. His accomplishments have since been published with him as a first author in Nature Communications (Roth*, Chiapello* et al., Nature Communications 9, 4677 (2018); * equal contribution) .

Dr Chiapello's successful pioneering of a variety of techniques must be attributed not only to his technical skillfulness but also to his remarkable determination and endurance that is carried by enthusiasm. He has a fantastic working discipline, is well organized and critical, a combination that has led to steady progress. Personally he is a very pleasant lab member who readily takes responsibility beyond his own concerns and assists colleagues in their daily tasks even without being asked for, and displaying excellent leadership skills. He indeed has an impressive 'coaching' routine that may be attributed to his experience as a professional Volleyball team trainer.

In summary, I am convinced that Dr Chiapello's is a highly gifted, mature academic with a strong work ethics, but who also readily adopts responsibilities for and mentoring of others.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone at 0044 1223 748981 or by e-mail at up220@cam.ac.uk

Sincerely,



Professor in Plant Molecular Genetics