Dear OPTIMA committee,

Currently, I am working in a molecular diagnostics laboratory at an oncology hospital in Poland, where I work on clinical samples to provide oncologists with genetic cancer diagnosis in order to customize treatment. I would like to continue developing in a field related to medicine and healthcare in order to have a direct positive impact on patient well-being. Therefore, I would like to be considered for joining the OPTIMA program.

Following graduation from the University of Edinburgh in 2013, BSc Hons Biological Sciences (Biochemistry), where I deepened my critical reasoning and good communication skills, in 2014 I obtained a Master's degree in Systems and Synthetic Biology from the University of Évry, France.

Immediately after Master, I joined a research team at the University of Freiburg, Germany. The project was at the interface of biology and physical science and consisted in innovative ionic sensing using biological nanopores (analogous to Oxford Nanopore). The Lab activity were a step stone for their start-up Nanion, which utilized our research work to promote their technology. My work involved cutting-edge techniques and required independence in conducting experiments and problem solving - I was involved in organizing the lab daily activities, poster presentation and fostering good relations with other team members, external professors and Nanion stake-holders.

Most importantly, my experiences so far developed my scientific curiosity and made me adapt to and learn from multi-disciplinary environment in an international context. I am aware of the necessity to connect research to industry and that is what attract me the most in the program. I am also looking forward to get acquainted to medical imaging tools and providing my clinical and biochemical expertise to one of the Optima projects.

I would be particularly, but not exclusively, interested in