Goals for Fellowship Training and Career

During the course of this fellowship, I will pursue the investigation of pioneer transcription factors during immune cell development and advance my own technical and theoretical understanding of the fields of immunology and bioinformatics. I am already enrolled in the Immunology PhD program at the University of Pennsylvania that will provide rigorous training in immunology; however, I have had to take a more proactive approach to learning bioinformatics. I have already taken steps to advancing my knowledge of bioinformatics by taking courses offered on EDX put on by Harvard’s leading statistician in Next Gen Sequencing, Rafael A Irizarry, and Michael Love, author of several packages used to analyze sequencing data. I have also attended an RNA-seq workshop here at the University of Pennsylvania put on by Dr. Greg Grant, an expert in high throughput sequencing analysis, study design, and non-parametric methods of data analysis. These courses have given me the skills necessary to analyze the data needed to address my research aims, and I will continue to take extracurricular courses as needed.

Selection of Sponsor and Institution

* Address the fact that Dr. Vahedi is new and does not have experience mentoring a graduate student
  + Co-Mentor with someone that has mentored successful graduate students (preferably one with a fellowship)

I plan to pursue a career as an academic researcher in immunology. Accordingly, I have selected a mentor and institution to ensure success in my endeavor. My sponsor, Dr. Golnaz Vahedi, has distinguished herself as a successful researcher and a promising junior faculty. Dr. Vahedi works diligently to create an interactive and collaborative research to address interesting and useful biological questions using her unique skillset while providing me with the technical and conceptual support under her mentorship.

Additionally, the University of Pennsylvania also provides