Universidad de los Andes

March 19th, 2020

Scholarship board
Arkansas University
USA

Dear Sirs,

It is a great pleasure for me to write a letter of recommendation for Nicolás Gustavo Gaitán, who I have known as a student in one of my classes and as an undergraduate researcher in my laboratory group.

Gustavo is a bright student, one of those who does not take notes in class but excels in grades and always has insightful comments and analyses about diverse topics. He took my undergraduate lecture on general bacteriology and was the best among fifty students in that cohort on the semester of 2018-20. I would rank him in the top 1% students in my career at Universidad de los Andes (12 years as a professor, teaching about 130 students per semester).

Because of his good academic skills, I asked Gustavo if he wanted to get training on practical skills by joining my lab (Laboratory of Molecular Interactions of Agricultural Microbes, LIMMA at Universidad de los Andes) under the supervision of a graduate student. He was always very diligent, responsibe and enjoyed the work in the lab. However, at the end of 2019-1, he asked me to switch to a more computational work, which he had become very enthusiastic about. He started working on the computational analysis of interactomic data in the molecular interaction between *Xanthomonas* and cassava plants. During these months, he has performed RNA-seq-like analyses, he is working on the metabolic targets of the protein from the pathogen and has acquired some of the computing skills in languages like linux, R and a bit of python, under the supervision of a graduate person from my lab. Gustavo has great initiative, he is creative and is a self-learner. Supervising him has been fun. He has a good attitude and is direct in his interactions with colleagues and supervisors.
I truly recommend Gustavo for this internship program and I think he will be a great asset for the laboratory that decides to recruit him for it, and he will make the most of this experience.

Best regards,

Adriana J. Bernal
Associate Professor
Department of Biological Sciences