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Department of Plant and Microbial Biology (IPMB)  
University of Zurich (UZH)  
Zollikerstrasse 107  
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August 08, 2024

Dear Dr. Baroux,

I am excited to apply for the Postdoc position for the sustainability technology implementation at the Department of Plant and Microbial Biology (IPMB) of the University of Zurich (UZH). With my extensive background in gut microbial biotechnology research, strong expertise in experimental planning and project documentation, as well as a deep passion for sustainable laboratory practices, I believe I am an ideal candidate to contribute to your important initiative.

I completed my PhD from the Laboratory of Food Biotechnology at ETH Zurich in November 2023. My project was focused on understanding the effect of vitamin B9 and B12 on the growth and metabolism of human gut microbes. I got skilled in conducting rigorous wet-lab experiments, managing complex research projects, and disseminating scientific findings through peer-reviewed publications. During my doctoral studies, I was acutely aware of the significant environmental impact of the laboratory plastics waste we generated on a daily basis. I strongly believe that we cannot continue to discard tons of potentially reusable materials, and I am eager to be part of the solution.

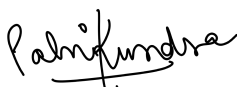
Your project to implement novel technology for automated washing and reuse of pipette tips aligns perfectly with my values and expertise. I understand the legal and regulatory aspects surrounding the use of such devices, as well as the importance of assessing their usability for critical molecular biology experimentation. My experience in collaborating with cross-functional teams, from scientists and technicians to external partners in University of Helsinki during my doctoral research project, will be invaluable in this endeavor.

Moreover, I possess strong communication and negotiation skills, which will be crucial in liaising with various stakeholders, from IPMB colleagues to officials from the AWEL of the Canton of Zurich and the device supplier. My proficiency in English will further facilitate these important conversations and ensure the seamless implementation of this sustainability initiative.

I am deeply committed to driving positive change and rethinking the way we conduct laboratory work to minimize our environmental footprint. The opportunity to contribute to a showcase project that demonstrates how a greener laboratory of the future can function is truly exciting to me. I am confident that my expertise, passion, and proactive work style will make me a valuable asset to your team.

Thank you for considering my application. I have submitted my CV, letter of work reference and degree certificates along with this letter. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how I can contribute to the success of this important sustainability initiative at IPMB.

Sincerely,



Palni Kundra