

**To whom it may concern,**

It is a great pleasure to write this reference letter in support of Dr. Yassir Boulaamane's application. After joining my lab for a three-month internship in 2023, Yassir became actively involved in our ongoing studies on drug development for the treatment of bacterial infections. During this time, he honed his expertise in microbiological techniques (such as microdilution and time-kill assays), cell culture (including the isolation and cultivation of human epithelial cells), and bacterial adhesion assays on host cells.

Yassir demonstrated an impressive ability to learn quickly and efficiently acquire fundamental knowledge. He conducted various experiments independently and obtained highly promising data, which were published in the journal mSystems (DOI: 10.1128/msystems.00325-24). Yassir also wrote his own project proposals, manuscripts, and posters. He is the first and corresponding author on several articles and a collaborator on others. Additionally, he actively participated in numerous conferences, presenting both oral and poster communications.

I must emphasize that Yassir Boulaamane exhibited exceptional skills in working independently while also excelling in collaboration with other lab members. He demonstrated leadership and successfully coordinated the assigned tasks. Beyond his scientific abilities, Yassir is a very pleasant and easygoing individual who maintained excellent relationships with everyone in the lab.

I am confident that he will excel in carrying out any proposed project and make significant contributions to your institution.

Sincerely,

Seville, January 16th, 2025



Prof. Y. Smani