

**S C R I P P S
F L O R I D A**

THE SCRIPPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Department of Infectology
5353 Parkside Drive RF-2
Jupiter, FL 33458, USA
Phone: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]

To the attention of : U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service

Re: National Interest Waiver Petition for [REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing this letter to strongly support [REDACTED] petition for U.S. permanent residence based on her exceptional contributions in the field of neurobiology.

My name is [REDACTED]. I have over 15 years of experience in the field of prion research. I am presently employed in the position of Professor in the Department of Infectology of the Scripps Research Institute in [REDACTED].

I am a member of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC), UK, and the TSE research advisory group of the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), UK. I have served for several years as a member or advisor to the following agencies:

- French Food Agency (Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments, AFSSA), Scientific Board and TSE Expert Committee
- National Institute of Medical Research (INSERM), France, Scientific Board
- National Institute of Agronomic Research (INRA), France, Department of Animal Health, Scientific Board
- « FranceCoag » network (national haemophilic surveillance network), Advisory Committee.
- French Governmental TSE Expert Committee.

I am also a member of the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMA) and the Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products (CPMP) with the category of Nominated European Expert.

I am a referee on a regular basis for scientific journals (Nature, Science and Lancet among others) and US, French, British, German, Italian, Austrian and Swiss research funding agencies. I am the author of many high profile scientific articles in peer reviewed journals that include Nature, Nature Medicine, Science, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, EMBO and the Lancet and I have given numerous lectures as invited speaker.

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in support of [REDACTED]. I am familiar with the past work of [REDACTED] and her current projects in the Department of Infectology at Scripps Florida. I followed her work through her publications in the most prestigious scientific journals. We have also had the opportunity to discuss issues regarding our common area of interest in international congresses and meetings; and finally invited her to join my team in 2006.

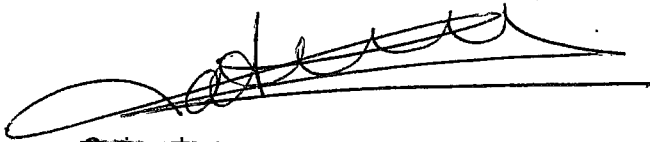
I would like to highlight [REDACTED]'s intellectual capabilities and technical skills. She has an enormous creative capacity, a privileged scientific mind which, combined with her working ethics and energy, make her an exceptional researcher.

[REDACTED]'s work is essential to understand the nature of the prion as a pathogenic agent, the molecular basis of prion propagation and its role in the pathogenesis of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies. She was among the first to develop the most sensitive method to detect prions biochemically in any sample, the protein misfolding cyclic amplification (PMCA), which allows to mimic *in vitro* the pathological process associated to the disease in a rapid and efficient fashion. She also generated infectivity of prions *in vitro* for the first time, helped develop a new methodology (saPMCA) able to detect prions in blood during the symptomatic phase and finally detect for the first time prions in blood from asymptomatic animals. [REDACTED] is, without any doubt, an outstanding researcher, and I expect her contributions and work in the highly complex area of prions to continue to be of major significance for the science worldwide.

She is among the world's leading scientists in her field and an essential member of my laboratory as well as of the Department of Infectology.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

With best regards,



[REDACTED]
Professor, Department of Infectology
Scripps Florida
561-799-8906
[REDACTED]