



UNIVERSIDAD CENTRAL DEL CARIBE

October 12, 2022

Comité de becas  
Intellectus Foundation PHSEF  
#1440 Salud (Edificio Thamar)  
Office 1-A  
Ponce, Puerto Rico

Dear Intellectus Foundation Scholarship Committee Members:

It is with great enthusiasm that I am writing this letter to support Ms. Beatriz Morales in her interest to apply to the scholarship directed towards clinical research sponsored by the Intellectus PHSEF Foundation with her work entitled "The Role of SCAMP3 in Triple Negative Breast Cancer Progression through the Regulation of ERK". I met Beatriz in 2019 when she was admitted to the Graduate Program of Biomedical Sciences of the Universidad Central del Caribe, where I am assistant professor.

In spring 2020, Beatriz successfully completed her laboratory rotation under my supervision despite all the challenges we have faced. She has been an integral part of the laboratory since she joined my lab, first as a rotating student and now as my mentee. Beatriz started to work on our project to investigate the role of the endocytosis-related protein SCAMP3 in the progression of inflammatory breast cancer sponsored by PR-INBRE. The results obtained from this investigation served as preliminary data for her project. Furthermore, Beatriz presented the data obtained during her rotation at the American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) virtual annual meeting. There, she received positive feedback about her project and suggestions to improve the work that she proposing in this application. In 2020 and as a consequence of her outstanding work, Beatriz was awarded the Intellectus Foundation PHSEF scholarship. This award opened new opportunities to Beatriz. She has been awarded several travel awards to present her work at national symposiums and conferences. Most importantly, Beatriz published her 1<sup>st</sup> co-authorship scientific paper (PMID: 35681787) in *Cancers* journal (I.F.= 6.575), where the Intellectus Foundation was acknowledged.

Her motivation to contribute to the field of health and specifically in helping to improve the health and quality of life of cancer patients has been her engine to develop in such a short time her thesis project, which experts in the field support. Her investigation focuses on identifying new molecular markers that are important in the progression of deadly triple negative breast cancer to develop new treatments to increase the survival of Puerto Rican patients suffering from this disease.

I am sure that if Beatriz is granted this scholarship, she will take advantage of this great opportunity and she will make proper use of the requested funds to carry out her research as she did previously. This scholarship will allow her to advance her thesis work, present and publish her findings, submit proposals to other entities and establish strong collaborations. It will be a great achievement for Beatriz, who will be able to advance her professional career in the field of health.

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