

Letter of recommendation for Karine Fawaz

Brussels, May 14, 2024

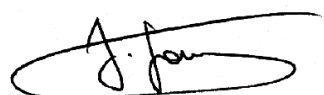
To whom it concerns

Dear Madam, Sir,

It is my great pleasure to write a recommendation letter for Karine Fawaz. I know Karine since she started in March 2024 her Master thesis under my supervision at the Université catholique de Louvain for the Master "Nutrition-Médecine-Sciences" at Université de Paris (ex Paris-Descartes). In that context, Karine learned and did experimental work about the role of cytosolic and mitochondrial NADPH in the survival and function of insulin-secreting pancreatic beta-cells. She successfully used a 3D culture model (aggregates of INS1 832/13 rat beta cells) to study the impact of SiRNA-mediated downregulation of enzymes producing cytosolic NADPH on beta cell apoptosis and nutrient-induced insulin secretion. She participated in different types of experiments (culture of INS1 cells in 2D and production of aggregates, RT-PCR and WB measurement of gene down-regulation by SiRNA, static measurement of insulin secretion in response to glucose and amino acids, measurement of insulin using an HTRF assay from Cisbio, measurement of DNA fragmentation using a commercial ELISA recognizing "histone-associated cytosolic DNA fragments"). From the very beginning, Karine demonstrated very good scientific and technical abilities. She is clever, curious, very organized, and learns fast. She is very motivated, always in good mood, and has very good professional interactions with colleagues. From her current experimental work, she will write and defend her master thesis in June 2024.

I therefore warmly recommend Karine Fawaz for a PhD fellowship in the field of her Master.

Yours sincerely,



Jean-Christophe Jonas, MD, PhD