

*In the Name of God*

According to the mutual scientific collaboration between International Relations section of Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences and France Embassy in Tehran, I was awarded a one month scholarship, November 6<sup>th</sup> to December 3<sup>rd</sup>, by the French government via the cultural section of the French Embassy. I joined Dr. Rassoulzadegan's lab, INSERM U 1091/7277, on November 6<sup>th</sup> and during aforementioned period I took part in several scientific meetings with researchers in Sophia Antipolis University, negotiated with two independent groups to have scientific collaborations, and carried out some experiments in cooperation with Dr. Rassoulzadegan's group that led to preparation of a manuscript.

Initially, I would like to thanks Mr. LHOTE Pierre-Andre, the Head of cultural section of the French Embassy, for extraordinary help in receiving Visa. Most of the official works were done by emails and I could get the Visa in a short period of time. In addition, they organized and funded my entire stay in France, scheduled from Nov. 6, 2014 to Dec. 3, 2014 at the Nice Sophia Antipolis University in Nice.

Our research objective aims to understand the role of non-coding RNAs (ncRNAs) in establishing the distinct epigenetic states of adult and embryonic stem cells and the misregulation of ncRNAs in diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and obesity. I discussed over and over the involvement of small non-coding RNAs in cardiac hypertrophy and cardiomyocytes differentiation of embryonic stem cells with Dr. Rassoulzadegan's group, one of the pioneers in the field of non-coding RNA research. Moreover, they supported me to perform some experiments with their budget and to write a manuscript entitled “**Dnmt2 as a mediator of RNA polymerase II transcriptional activity in cardiac hypertrophy**”.

I also had scientific meetings with some French academic groups and researchers for future scientific collaborations. I had talks with Dr. Kay Wagner, Research Director INSERM, Institute for Research on Cancer and Ageing of Nice (IRCAN), to have collaborations in the field of involvement of non-coding RNAs in cardiac hypertrophy and cardiomyocyte differentiation. Also, I had a meeting with Dr. Michele Studer, group leader in INSERM U 1091/7277, to support us in the area of non-coding RNA mediated regulating neuronal differentiation.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to Dr. Gharehbaghian, Respected Manager of University Affairs and International Relations, for his guidance and negotiation with the cultural section of the French Embassy for supporting Iranian researchers.

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