



'Adopt a Professional' Programme Report of Training Experience: José Guillermo Pereira Brunelli from Paraguay

The scholarship awarded by the Foundation for Emerging Nations (FEN) helped me to achieve an integral growth. I had the opportunity to learn a lot about specific laboratory techniques and also the creation of scientific links for future projects.

I received the email from Dr. Graham Beastall informing me that my application was accepted, which included a two-month internship at the Tor Vergata Polyclinic in the city of Rome, Italy. It was very exciting because it was going to be my first time in Europe and in the country of my ancestors.

My wish was to acquire experience about diagnostic techniques in the area of Molecular Microbiology and started at the hospital on December 4, 2017, rotating one month in the Molecular Virology Laboratory and the other month in the Molecular Bacteriology Laboratory, where they also made mycological diagnosis.

The laboratories had the latest technologies in molecular diagnosis, where since the first day I learned about extraction techniques, amplification and even DNA sequencing. mRNA identification techniques were also performed. I could practice using automated and non-automated equipment.

The laboratory work team was brilliant, with a lot of predisposition and patience to teach. I had the opportunity to learn by doing the practices in the laboratory and also the theoretical part through explanatory videos.

Rome is an artistic city with a rich history, where its countless monuments, museums and squares make it a unique city, so at the same time I learned a lot about the history of the city.

In my country I work in the National Program of Leprosy, where I have to make the diagnosis of Leprosy. In cases of patients with paucibacillary leprosy, which is the initial and least disabling stage of the disease, and traditional diagnostic methods have a very low sensitivity, so it is very important to incorporate PCR techniques. So this experience helped me a lot to

know about the best PCR technique that in a very short time will be implemented in my laboratory.

I would like to give special thanks to Dr. Graham Beastall, the board of directors of the Foundation for Emerging Nations (FEN) and the Association of Biochemists of Paraguay ABP for the opportunity to obtain this scholarship. And also to Prof. Sergio Bernardini and the entire team of the Molecular Virology and Bacteriology Laboratory of the Tor Vergata Polyclinic that have made exceptional my internship in Rome.



Molecular Bacteriology Laboratory, Tor Vergata Polyclinic. Dr. Marco Favaro and his team.



Part of the team of Molecular Virology Laboratory, Tor Vergata Polyclinic.