

## **Statement of Goals**

I am a PhD student and I aim to be an independent researcher. I have been working with *Toxoplasma gondii* and its dissemination mechanisms. Previously we have found that upon *T.gondii* infection, primary dendritic cells exhibit a hypermigratory phenotype that facilitates parasite translocation across cellular barriers. My projects identified morphological changes in *T.gondii* infected dendritic cells, *T.gondii* secreted protein that is involved in hypermigration and one of the signalling pathways in dendritic cell to induce hypermigration. Most interesting thing is microglia, immune cells in the central nervous system, also exhibit a hypermigratory phenotype *in vitro* but mechanism behind is different from dendritic cells. *T.gondii* infection in the central nervous system (CNS) is often accompanied by lethal outcome in immunocompromised patient. Also, there are epidemiological studies to see the relationship between mental diseases and *T.gondii* infection. Therefore, after my PhD study I'm interested in working on parasite infection in the central nervous system.

During my PhD study, I have learnt parasite cultivation, variety of imaging techniques and used molecular techniques. This course will have variety of lectures to open wider vision and will have opportunity to discuss with lecturers. In addition, laboratory work with a small group will expand my experimental skills and networking. I heard from my supervisor Prof. Antonio Barragan who attended this course in 1999 and Dr. Johan Ankarklev who attended this course in 2010 that the course is great place to learn and networking.

My plan is to defend my thesis at the end of this year and carry on research as a post doc to proceed career in academia. For proceeding this career, it is very important for me to have a good research technique, knowledge, network and wide vision.