

30 August 2024

MUDr. Luca E. Vannucci, Ph.D.
President of the Czech Immunological Society (CIS)
Víteňská 1083, Prague 4, 142 20, Czech Republic

Dear Dr Vannucci,

I am a Scientist at the Laboratory of Gnotobiology, Institute of Microbiology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Nový Hrádek, Czech Republic. I am writing to you to express my willingness to run for the CIS steering committee election in 2024.

I received my veterinary medicine training in India before relocating to England to complete an MSc in Integrated Immunology at the University of Oxford in 2007. After earning my MSc degree, I pursued a PhD in Immunology at the University of Manitoba, Canada (2010-2015), focusing on how innate lymphocytes modulate dendritic cells to control adaptive immunity against lung infections. Following the completion of my doctorate, I moved to Norway to work as a Postdoctoral and later Senior Researcher at the University of Oslo (2015-2022), with a focus on developing commensal bacteria-based vaccines and exploring the impact of therapeutic antibiotic regimens on neonatal and infant immunity.

Aside from research in Oslo, I served as chair of the faculty Research Day Symposium for two years in a row, a member of the committee constituted to hire laboratory animal technicians, an instructor of advanced immunology courses, and an *ad hoc* reviewer and editor for scientific journals (e.g., *Frontiers in Immunology* and *Scandinavian Journal of Immunology*). I not only gained experience managing research projects as a coordinator and project in-charge (PI), but also established major collaborations with premier research institutes (e.g., CDC, Atlanta, USA). Additionally, I supervised MSc and PhD students, availed memberships of immunological societies (e.g., the Norwegian Society for Immunology), and composed and published lay summaries of my research findings for members of society who are not well-versed with scientific intricacies.

Major reasons why I believe that I would make a valuable addition to the CIS steering committee: **1)** I possess a passion for learning and disseminating scientific knowledge in immunology, as evidenced by my academic background. **2)** I have experience in serving administrative committees, editorial boards, and research projects. **3)** Since I am based in Nový Hrádek, I will be able to represent the CIS members who work out of remote and rural locations and often feel that their lack of proximity to the center puts them at a disadvantage. **4)** As an international scientist who has successfully and amicably collaborated with people from many cultures, races, and nations, I will bring a fresh perspective that will undoubtedly add value to the academic milieu of the CIS.

I have enclosed my brief CV with this letter for your kind observation. Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
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