



Nominate Agreement for a Thesis Cotutelle

From Dalila Di Francesco

to Université Laval

and to Università Del Piemonte Orientale

This agreement is proposed to the academic and administrative heads for the implementation of a thesis cotutelle and to guarantee the good execution thereof. Complementary provisions may be added thereto as required in compliance with the rules provided in the *Framework Agreement for Implementing a Doctoral Thesis Cotutelle* between Université Laval and Università del Piemonte Orientale, signed on Date.

Parties to the Agreement

Pursuant to the Doctoral Thesis Cotutelle Framework Agreement, this nominate agreement is entered into between:

Name of the partner institution

Represented by First name and family name

Title

and Université Laval

Represented by Annie Pilote

Dean of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

The agreement concerns:

FAMILY NAME, First Name Di Francesco, Dalila

Date of birth: 04/05/1996

Nationality: Italian

ARTICLE 1 – Registration

The student specified in this agreement shall be simultaneously and continuously registered on a full-time basis in both of the following institutions:

Partner institution: Università del Piemonte Orientale

As of: 10-11-2022

In the doctoral program in: Food, Health and Longevity

AND

At Université Laval

As of: 09/2021

In the doctoral program in: Materials and Metallurgical Engineering (Biomaterials)

ARTICLE 2 – Thesis Supervision

Studies and research work are completed under the joint responsibility of the thesis supervisors of each institution.

At *Università del Piemonte Orientale* , thesis supervision is ensured by:

Boccafoschi, Francesca	Associate Professor
<i>Family name and first name</i>	<i>Title, email</i>

At Université Laval, thesis supervision is ensured by

Mantovani, Diego	Full Professor
<i>Family name and first name</i>	<i>Title, email</i>

Context of the collaboration between the thesis supervisors

*Describe the **prior, current or planned** collaboration between the thesis supervisors.*

The history of research collaboration between Prof. Mantovani (ULaval) and Prof. Boccafoschi (UNIUPO) lasts since 2004 and has been very fruitful. The complementary expertise of both research groups and the shared interest in regenerative medicine has led to numerous publications (9) and the successful cotutelle of Dr. Francesco Copes, from 2015 to 2018. The strength of such a collaboration is given by the synergy and complementary approaches of both research groups in the development of natural biomaterials for regenerative medicine and tissue engineering.

The present research aims to characterize and validate a natural decellularized biomaterial derived from food industry by-products for different biomedical applications. To this end, the expertise of Prof. Boccafoschi and her research group in the field has led to the establishment of TissueGraft, a company developing highly innovative natural biomaterials and to diverse publications, enriching the research group's knowledge and approaches on the biological validation of such materials.

On the other end, Prof. Mantovani, director of the Laboratory for Biomaterials and Bioengineering at Laval University, holds a unique expertise in the mechanical and chemical characterization of natural materials, a crucial factor for the success of this complex research project.

The integration of the expertise areas of the two research groups, combining biological and engineering approaches, can provide a thorough system for the development and characterization of a complex biomaterial for biomedical applications.

Both thesis supervisors undertake to fully perform the duties of advisor for the doctoral student. They jointly exercise the functions conferred by their institution for a thesis supervisor.

Both thesis supervisors shall fully supervise the student specified in this agreement. They jointly assume the responsibilities assigned by their institution for thesis supervision.

ARTICLE 3 – Stay Schedule and Payment of Tuition Fees

Studies and research shall be conducted continuously, alternating between the two institutions. The student specified in this agreement shall pay the registration and tuition fees only at the institution where she resides for study or research, according to the following schedule:

<p>1st year:</p> <p>Will reside at <u> Université Laval </u> for the following academic terms <u> Fall 2021, Winter, Summer 2022 </u>.</p> <p>Will pay the tuition fees at <u> Université Laval </u> for the following academic terms <u> Fall 2021, Winter, Summer 2022 </u>.</p>
<p>2nd year:</p> <p>Will reside at <u> Université Laval </u> for the following academic term <u> Fall 2022 </u>.</p> <p>Will pay the tuition fees at <u> Université Laval </u> for the following academic terms <u> Fall 2022 </u>.</p>
<p>Will reside at <u> Università del Piemonte Orientale </u> for the following academic terms <u> Winter, Summer 2023 </u>.</p>

<p>Will pay the tuition fees at <u>Università del Piemonte Orientale</u> for the following academic terms <u>Winter, Summer 2023</u></p>
<p>3rd year:</p> <p>Will reside at <u>Università del Piemonte Orientale</u> for the following academic terms <u>Fall 2023, Winter, Summer 2024</u>.</p> <p>Will pay the tuition fees at <u>Università del Piemonte Orientale</u> for the following academic terms <u>Fall 2023, Winter, Summer 2024</u>.</p>
<p>4th year:</p> <p>Will reside at <u>Università del Piemonte Orientale</u> for the following academic terms <u>Fall 2024</u>.</p> <p>Will pay the tuition fees at <u>Università del Piemonte Orientale</u> for the following academic terms <u>Fall 2024</u>.</p>
<p>Will reside at <u>Université Laval</u> for the following academic term <u>Winter, Summer 2025</u>.</p> <p>Will pay the tuition fees at <u>Université Laval</u> for the following academic terms <u>Winter, Summer 2025</u>.</p>

ARTICLE 4 – Term of the Agreement

Notwithstanding article 13, this agreement is valid for four years. It may be extended by amendment with the consent of both institutions, following a joint proposal by both thesis supervisors.

ARTICLE 5 – Social Protection and Civil Liability

With the partner institution, the student specified in this agreement has the benefit of:

National Health service in Italy, being an Italian citizen and foreign health insurance at ULaval (Mandatory) when registered at ULaval

At Université Laval, all international students are automatically covered by the Université Laval group health and hospitalization insurance plan through Desjardins Insurance. This medical insurance plan covers medical and hospital expenses, as well as the cost of prescription drugs. This coverage is mandatory. You can't replace it with any personal insurance.

Students from countries with which the Québec government has signed reciprocal social security agreements (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal,

Romania, Serbia and Sweden) may be exempt. These students have to take certain steps before they leave their home country and when they arrive in Québec.

<https://www.ulaval.ca/international/immigration/adherer-au-regime-dassurance-maladie-et-hospitalisation-des-etudiants-etrangers>

Registration in the **Mobility Register** is mandatory for any university activity taking place abroad or elsewhere in Canada: <https://www.ulaval.ca/international/securite>

ARTICLE 6 – Thesis

The subject of the thesis submitted is:

Characterization and validation of the immunomodulatory potential of bovine pericardium decellularized extracellular matrix -derived hydrogel for regenerative medicine applications

Protection of the subject of the thesis and the publication, use of and protection of the results stemming from the research work are subject to the regulations in force in both institutions and are assured in compliance with the procedures of each country participating in the cotutelle.

ARTICLE 7 – Intellectual Property

The work performed by the student for assessing the subject matter learned is his/her intellectual property. The student is the sole owner of the copywrite to his/her work. Reproduction of all or a significant portion of the student's work is prohibited without his/her prior consent.

The student's moral rights must be respected at all times. No one may modify the content of the work without the student's prior consent.

ARTICLE 8 – Research Ethics with Human Subjects

The student specified in this agreement is required to comply with the rules regarding research ethics in force in each of the partner establishments. A student must obtain the approval of the Université Laval Ethics and Research Committee (CÉRUL) and as the case may be, from the ethics committee of the partner institution **before** beginning any data collection activity.

ARTICLE 9– Completion of Studies

Courses and other scheduled academic activities must meet the requirements of each of the programs and are subject to the regulations in force in both institutions.

At Université Laval, the student specified in this agreement must register for each of the courses of her program, including the doctoral examination. Only research activities shall be shared between both institutions.

The student specified in this agreement shall participate in the following activities:

<p>Partner institution:</p> <p><i>Specify the academic requirements (courses, seminars, exams and other academic activities):</i></p> <p>Didactic activities (mandatory for PhD students) (Winter 2023 – Summer 2023– Fall 2023 - Winter 2024 – Summer 2024 – Fall 2024)</p> <p>Annual report (Winter 2023 – Winter 2024)</p>
<p>Université Laval:</p> <p><i>Specify the academic requirements (courses, seminars, exams and other academic activities):</i></p> <p>GML-8000 Examen de doctorat (6 credits)</p> <p>GMN-8001 Séminaire de doctorat I (1 credit)</p> <p>GMN-8002 Séminaire de doctorat II (1 credit)</p> <p>GMN-8003 Séminaire de doctorat III (1 credit)</p> <p>Optional credits (9 credits) obtained with courses that will be followed during the sessions at ULaval:</p> <p>GML-7013 Méthodologie de la recherche scientifique (1 credit)</p> <p>GML-7017 Préparation à la recherche scientifique (1 credit)</p> <p>GML-7018 Rédaction scientifique (1 credit)</p> <p>GML-7009 Biomatériaux pour implants et organes artificiels (3 credits)</p> <p>GML-7000 Sujets spéciaux (3 credits)</p> <p>Other Research credits from both institutions (ULaval and UNIUPO) will be obtained.</p>

ARTICLE 10 – Writing

The thesis shall be written and defended in the following language:

_____English_____.

If the thesis is written with the prior authorization of the heads of the programs concerned, in a language other than French, it must contain a summary in French.

The thesis must be submitted in compliance with the presentation rules provided by each of the institutions.

ARTICLE 11 –Evaluation committee and Thesis Defence

The evaluation committee is constituted on an equal basis between the institutions. It has a maximum of seven (7) members. It must include the two thesis supervisors, a member designated by Université Laval, a member designated by the partner institution and a member external to the two institutions, chosen by mutual agreement.

The evaluation and thesis defence procedures shall comply with the rules in force in each of the partner institutions. All jury members must submit their evaluation report to the Université Laval Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at least ten (10) days before the thesis defence is held.

Following the positive opinion of the jury, the student specified in this agreement is invited to defend her thesis. Only one thesis defence is held, which is to be acknowledged by both institutions.

Following the thesis defence, the jury shall complete the reports required by each of the institutions.

The thesis defence shall be held at:

Université Laval

Institution

The thesis defence shall be held at the latest in the following month and year:

Fall 2025 (September - December 2025;
Tentatively)

Month, year

ARTICLE 12 – Diplomas

Following the favourable opinion of the jury, Université Laval and the partner university shall award a Ph.D. to the student specified in this agreement. The diploma awarded shall mention the collaboration of the partner institution as well as the cotutelle.

Depending on the practice of the institutions, mentions other than the title, the discipline and the cotutelle may be shown on the diploma or be supplied in a separate certification.

ARTICLE 13 — Filing, Reporting, Reproduction and Dissemination of the Thesis

The filing, reporting, reproduction and dissemination of the thesis shall be done in each country pursuant to the regulations in force.

Université Laval disseminates the theses written by its students to showcase their research and creative work. Electronic dissemination is accomplished by the Université Laval library and by Library and Archives Canada (LAC).

The student who is the author of the thesis grants to Université Laval and to LAC a non-exclusive licence to disseminate the thesis, without any royalties, without any limit in time or geographical area. This licence allows Université Laval to:

- a) Reproduce and store on any media, publish, archive, backup, maintain, disseminate, communicate by any means, make public through telecommunication, Internet or otherwise, lend or distribute the student's thesis (the title of which is mentioned above), anywhere in the world for non commercial purposes;
- b) Authorize any of the actions specified in the preceding paragraph when granting a sub-licence or a contract to a third party;
- c) Include a description of the student's dissertation or thesis in catalogs for dissemination and communication by any means.

ARTICLE 14 – Travelling and Lodging Expenses

The student specified in this agreement and thesis supervision shall support the travelling and lodging expenses entailed by the study program, including the thesis defence.

Université Laval shall pay only one institutional financial contribution pursuant to the rules in force at the time of the thesis defence for the external examiner's travelling expenses if the thesis defence is held at Université Laval. When it is held at the partner institution, a financial contribution may be paid for the travelling expenses of the Université Laval examiner other than the thesis supervisor.

The PhD candidate will be supported by a grant from the Université Laval supervisor, for the entire duration of the research work. The PhD candidate will assume expenses for travel, accommodation, and all living expenses.

For the PhD candidate's activities, each institution will freely make available its own resources, including laboratories.

The travel expenses for the Università del Piemonte Orientale thesis supervisor will be in charge of the supervisor own research funds. The travel expenses for the Université Laval thesis supervisor will be in charge of the supervisor own research funds.

The costs for the participation of the external examiner to a defense, either physically or electronically, must be paid by the supervisors and by their attachment faculties or schools. However, as a support measure, the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies of Université Laval (Faculté des études supérieures et postdoctorales de l'Université Laval) pays to the attachment faculty of the supervisor at Université Laval a fixed amount for allowing the participation, either physically or electronically, of a single member of the thesis jury – the external examiner, when the defense is held at Université Laval, or a jury member different from the supervisor designated by Université Laval, who acts as defence secretary, when the defense is held in the partner institution.

ARTICLE 15 – Other Provisions

The student will benefit of the Doctoral Founding program (Bourses de réussite de la FESP pour les Étudiants de 3e cycle – Département de génie des mines, de la métallurgie et des matériaux” at Université Laval.

SIGNATURES

The student

Signature:

FAMILY NAME, First name:

Date:

FOR THE PARTNER INSTITUTION

Thesis Supervisor

Signature:

Boccafoschi, Francesca

Date:

Head of the Doctoral School

Signature:

FAMILY NAME, First name:

Date:

Institutional Head or his/her representative

Signature:

FAMILY NAME, First name:

Date:

FOR UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL

Thesis Supervisor

Signature:

Mantovani, Diego

Date:

Program Head

Signature:

Laroche, Gaéтан

Date:

**Dean of the Faculty of Graduate and
Postdoctoral Studies**

Signature:

Pilote, Annie

Date:
