



## Agreement of joint thesis supervision

between

**The Higher Institute of Biotechnology relevant to the University of Monastir**

and

**Università degli Studi di Messina**

THE UNDERSIGNED:

The Higher Institute of Biotechnology of Monastir at the University de Monastir (Home Institution), BP 74 Avenue Tahar Haddad, 5000, Monastir, Tunisia,

jointly referred to as “**ISBM**” (**Home Institution**),  
represented by **Mr. Pr. Mounir Raoui Maaroufi, Director**

*And*

Università degli Studi di Messina (University of Messina), Piazza Pugliatti 1, 98121, Messina, Italy,

Here in after referred to as “**UNIME**” (**Host Institution**),  
represented by **Prof. Salvatore Cuzzocrea, Rector**,

in which the aforementioned parties are jointly referred to as ‘the parties’,

Considering

the Framework Cooperation Agreement of Culture and Scientific Cooperation between Università degli Studi di Messina and the University of Monastir (prot. n°352/2017) and seen the art. 27 of the Regulation concerning Research Doctorate Course issued with the Rector’s Decree n. 834/2022

Having regard for The Higher Institute of Biotechnology of Monastir at the University de Monastir (Tunisia):

- The decree n° 2013-47 of January 4th, 2013 fixing the general framework of the regime of the studies and the conditions of obtaining the national diploma of doctorate in the system "LMD";

Having regard for UNIME (Italy)

- the art. 4 of the Italian Law n. 210 of 03/07/1998, that provides for the Universities’ autonomy in setting up PhD courses within Universities’ governmental, educational and scientific autonomy, as modified by the Law n. 240/2010;

- the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research Regulation concerning PhD programmes, issued with D.M. n. 226/2021;
- the University of Messina Regulation concerning Research Doctorate course issued with the Rector's Decree n. 834/2022;
- the report of Academic Boards of UNIME that approves doctoral student's application

**The following has been agreed:**

**Article 1-JOINT THESIS SUPERVISION**

The partner institutions hereby agree that they shall assume joint responsibility for the supervision of the doctoral student's doctoral research project. The two Institutions, animated by the will to promote the exchange of PhD students between them and to strengthen, thus, scientific and university cooperation, decide by mutual agreement, within the framework of the legislations in force in their respective countries, to use the procedure of co-supervision of thesis in favour of the Doctoral Student:

- Name and surname of the student: **SiwarABOUDA**
- Born in Sousse, Tunisia, on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 1997
- E-mail: siwarabouda697@gmail.com
- Telephone number: 0021650389824
- Bachelor Degree: June 2019
- Master Degree: Biology and Cellular Physiology: July 2021
- Registered as a doctoral student at the Higher Institute of Biotechnology of Monastir at the University of Monastir, Doctorate of Philosophy Programme in "Sciences Biologiques et Biotechnologie" as stated in the Higher Institute of Biotechnology of Monastir relevant to the University of Monastir enrolment certificate number 1900023, dated November 26, 2021.

**Article 2 – Supervision of the doctoral student**

In each of the institutions concerned, the doctoral student will carry out the research work under the direction and responsibility of the following thesis supervisors:

- At ISBM (Home Institution):

Name: Prof. Mohamed BANNI

Department: Molecular and Cellular Biologie and Biotechnology, Higher Institute of Biotechnologie of Monastir

Position: Full Professor

- At UNIME (Host Institution):

Name: Prof. Maria MAISANO

Department: Department of Biological, Farmacological and Environmental Sciences

Position: Full Professor

Both thesis Supervisors undertake to fully exercise, jointly with the doctoral student, the responsibilities attributed to them by the regulations in force and the academic traditions in their respective countries. They shall also undertake, in their respective establishments, to ensure the implementation of the provisions of this Agreement.

The doctoral student shall follow the activities of the doctoral programs during his staying at

ISBM and at UNIME as agreed by the two Supervisors, according with the regulations of both the PhD courses involved.

### **ARTICLE 3 – ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES AND DOCTORAL THESIS SUBJECT**

The doctoral student will be admitted at the first year of academic year 2021/2022 of the Doctoral course in Biologia Applicata e Medicina Sperimentale (Applied Biology and Experimental Medicine), curriculum “Environmental Science”, XXXVII cycle, of the Università degli Studi di Messina. The doctoral program lasts three years and will end on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The doctoral student is already registered at The Higher Institute of Biotechnology of Monastir relevant to the University de Monastir at Doctoral course in “Sciences Biologiques et Biotechnologie”, academic year 2021/2022. The doctoral programme for the student lasts three years and will end at September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The doctoral student could benefit from a Tunisian scholarship for her thesis during the three years of the doctorate programme.

The subject of the thesis submitted by the doctoral student is “**Contribution to the characterization of the toxicity of plastic microparticles/nanoparticles (MP/NP) and benzo[a]pyren in the seaworm *Hediste diversicolor*”.**

### **Article 4 – ENROLLMENT AND STUDENT SERVICE FEE**

The doctoral student must be enrolled in both institutions. She must pay registration fees in Tunisia (Home Institution). She is exempt from these same rights to the other establishment (Università degli Studi di Messina).

### **Article 5 – AWARD OF THE DEGREE**

If the doctoral student has passed the joint doctoral examination successfully, she shall be separately awarded a degree by the partner institutions as follows:

- Doctor (Ph.D) in “Sciences Biologiques et Biotechnologie” (ISBM)
- Dottore di ricerca (Ph.D) in “Biologia Applicata e Medicina Sperimentale (Applied Biology and Experimental Medicine)” (UNIME)

### **Article 6 – INSURANCE COVER**

During her stay in the host country, the doctoral student benefits from the social security cover, in accordance with the legislation in force. During her stay at UNIME, the Host partner guarantees third party liability and accident insurance within the limits established by the Italian law. In Italy, in addition to that, before starting mobility periods abroad, the doctoral student takes all necessary steps in order to arrange health insurance, insurance cover against physical injuries and third party liability whilst performing her duties within the framework of the doctoral research project. During mobility periods abroad, the Doctoral Candidate should also have insurance covering repatriation in case of accident or illness.

### **Article 7– RESEARCH AT PARTNER INSTITUTION**

The research work is carried out alternately in both institutions. The doctoral student should spend alternate or consecutive research equivalent periods at both partner institutions. The period of the joint research activities will be agreed by the two Supervisors as following:

- expected periods at UNIME: From September 2022 to July 2023 and from January 2024 to July 2024 (18 months)
- scheduled periods at ISBM: From November 2021 to August 2022, from August

2023 to December 2023, and from August 2024 to October 2024 (18 months)

Due to the COVID-2019 emergency, the possibility of varying the periods of stay in the two universities will be considered.

#### **ARTICLE 8 – ADMISSION AT THE ONLY FINAL EXAMINATION AND THESIS DEFENCE COMMITTEE**

The partners agree that the deadline for the submission of the final thesis will be on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

According to both institutions rules, to obtain the admission at the single final examination, the thesis will be evaluated by two external reviewers full professors (one from each country). If the evaluation of the reviewers is positive and they don't ask for modifications of the thesis, the final examination could be taken until January 2025. If the evaluation of the reviewers is positive, but they ask for modifications of the thesis, the final examination could be postponed until six months and could be taken until June 2025. According to the Tunisian rules, the two institutions have to consider that the student has to publish a scientific publication (In a journal with IF as first author) to be admitted at the final examination. The student will have to submitted her scientific publication in due time to allow the final examination. The only Examination Board shall be comprised of six members including the two thesis supervisors, that don't evaluate the candidate. In accordance with regulations in force, the Defense Committee is made up of a balanced number of members appointed by the two institutions and includes at least two members external to both universities. At least two thirds of the members of the Examination Board must be Academic professors.

#### **Article 9 – DOCTORAL THESIS DEFENSE (PUBLIC DISCUSSION)**

The thesis will lead to a single defense in ISBM Monastir. The only report of the Examination Board will be in French and in Italian language (or only in English). The institution organizing the defense, undertakes to issue the title of Doctor and to transmit a copy of the complete defense file to the partner institution which undertakes, in turn, to issue the title of Doctor as provided by art 5.

#### **Article 10 – LANGUAGE OF THESIS**

The doctoral thesis will be drawn up and defended in English, whereas the written and oral summary will be in French. An abstract of the doctoral thesis shall be supplied in English, in French, in arabic and in Italian.

#### **ARTICLE 11 – INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

Intellectual property ownership will be based on the principle of inventor owns in accordance with the respective policies of each of the partner institutions.

Therefore, the protection of the research results arising from the doctoral research project, as well as any matter related to filing them, making them accessible, their publication and exploitation shall be discussed and agreed by the partner institutions and be in accordance with the national and institutional regulations in force.

#### **ARTICLE 12 – PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA**

The processing of personal data related to this call is carried out by the University in accordance with the European General Regulation No. 679/2016 for the protection of personal data and the

Code regarding the protection of personal data, Legislative Decree No. 196/2003 and subsequent amendments and additions.

**ARTICLE 13 – DEPOSIT COPY AND PUBLICATION OF THE PHD THESIS**

Details regarding the deposit copy, authorial information and printing the PhD thesis are set out in the applicable regulations of each higher education institution.

The publication of the PhD thesis is guaranteed by both higher education institutions in accordance with their applicable regulations.

**ARTICLE 14 – COMMENCEMENT AND VALIDITY OF THE AGREEMENT**

The present agreement shall take as and from the date of its execution by the authorized representative of each contracting Institution and expires at the end of final examination procedure.

**ARTICLE 15 – VALIDITY OF THE AGREEMENT AND SETTLEMENTS OF DISPUTES**

The stipulations of this agreement may not conflict with the provisions of the regulations at of the two Institutions. Disputes must be resolved amicably through friendly bilateral consultations.

Modifications to this agreement shall be effective only if they are in writing and signed by the authorized representatives of the contracting parties

## Signatures

**Drawn up in five original copies  
For Acceptance**

### **For the University of Monastir**

*President:* Prof Hedi BEL HADJ SALAH date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Director of ISBM:* Pr Raoui Mounir Maaroufi date: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Director of the Doctoral school:* Pr Nouredine CHATTI date: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Thesis Supervisor:* Pr Mohamed BANNI date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **For the “Università degli Studi di Messina”**

*Rector:* Prof Salvatore Cuzzocrea date: \_\_\_\_\_

*PhD Programme Coordinator:* Prof Nunziacarla Spanò date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thesis Supervisor:* Prof Maria Maisano date: \_\_\_\_\_

**For acceptance**

*The doctoral student*  
Siwar ABOUDA date: \_\_\_\_\_