



LOGO Institution

## Agreement of Joint Thesis Supervision

### BETWEEN

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

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

and

Université Paris-Est Créteil (Host Institution), 61 avenue du Général de Gaulle, 94010 Créteil  
Cedex France

jointly referred to as UPEC (**Host Institution**),  
represented by Jean-Luc Dubois-Randé President

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

Considering

- Convention cadre sur les co-tutelles de these entre la Conférence des Présidents d'Université (CPU) et la Conférence des Recteurs des Universités Italiennes (CRUI), dated February 13, 1998

Having regard for the French part:

- Decree of 25 May 2016 laying down the national framework regarding training and modalities conducting to the grant of a national doctorate degree

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 favor of the Doctoral Student:

- Name and surname of the student: Maria Stella Franzè
- Born in Gioia Tauro (RC) – 04/Jul/1991
- Address in Italy: Via Santa Maria dell'Imperio n° 8, Vibo Valentia (VV)
- Address of partner country: \_\_\_\_\_
- E-mail: [maria.franze@studenti.unime.it](mailto:maria.franze@studenti.unime.it)
- Telephone number: +39 3493099527
- Bachelor Degree:
- Master Degree: Medicine and Surgery
- Registration at UNIME, Doctoral Course in Translational Molecular Medicine and Surgery - XXXVII Cycle

## **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 UNIME (Home Institution):

Name: Prof. Giovanni Raimondo

Department: Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Division of Medicine and Hepatology, University Hospital of Messina – UNIME, Messina

Position: Full Professor

- At UPEC (Host Institution):

Name: Prof. Giuliana Amaddeo

Department: Hepatology Department, IMRB, INSERM U 955, Equipe 18 Henri-Mondor University Hospital – UPEC, Créteil

Position: Associated 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 her staying at UNIME and UPEC as agreed by the two Supervisors.

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

The doctoral student is already registered at UNIME at Doctoral course in “Translational Molecular Medicine and Surgery”, academic year 2021/2022, XXXVII cycle. The doctoral program lasts three years and will end at September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

At UPEC (host Institution) the doctoral student will be admitted at the first year of academic year 2021/2022 of the Doctoral course in “Sciences de la vie et de la santé”. The doctoral

program lasts three years and will end on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**The subject of the thesis submitted by the doctoral student is “Immunologic and biomolecular characteristics of occult HBV-related hepatocellular carcinoma”.**

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

The doctoral student must be enrolled in both institutions. She must pay registration fees at UNIME (Home Institution). She is exempt from these same rights to the other establishment (UPEC).

#### **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:

-Dottore di ricerca (Ph.D) in **Translational Molecular Medicine and Surgery” (UNIME)**

-Doctor (Ph.D) in **“ED SVS 402” (Université Paris-Est Créteil)**

#### **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 01/Oct/2021 to 31/Oct/2022 and from 01/Nov/2023 to 30/Sep/2024
- scheduled periods at UPEC: From 01/Nov/2022 to 31/Oct/2023

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 Italian rules, to obtain the admission at the single final examination, the thesis will be evaluated by two external reviewers named by the Italian Board of Professors that

don't participate in the final examination.

If the evaluation of the reviewers and of the Italian Board of professors 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 and the Italian Board of professors 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. The only Examination Board shall be comprised of six members including the two thesis supervisors that do not evaluate the candidate. In accordance with regulations in force, the Defence Committee is made up of a balanced number of members appointed by the two Establishments 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 DEFENCE (PUBLIC DISCUSSION)**

The thesis will lead to a single defense at UNIME

The only report of the Examination Board will be in Italian and French language (or only in English language). 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 and the conclusions of the research shall be written in English. The written thesis will be in English.

An abstract of the doctoral thesis shall be supplied in French.

#### **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 four original copies

**For Acceptance**

**For Université Paris-Est Créteil**

**For Università degli Studi di Messina**

Date :	Date :
Opinion and signature of the President	Opinion and signature of the Rector
_____	Università degli Studi di Messina
Prof. _____	Prof. Salvatore Cuzzocrea

The Supervisor

The Supervisor

Prof.

Prof.

The Coordinator of the Doctoral Course

The Coordinator of the Doctoral Course

Prof.

**The doctoral student for acceptance**