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Subject: Nomination for the council of the European Society for Biomaterials (ESB) - Letter of application

Dear council of the European Society for Biomaterials (ESB),

With this letter, I would like to nominate myself in the upcoming election for an available seat (starting from September 2023) in the ESB council. My name is Zeinab (Niloofar) Tahmasebi Birgani and I am a principal investigator (PI) at the MERLN Institute for Technology-Inspired Regenerative Medicine at Maastricht University.

I have an education background in biomaterials and tissue regeneration. My research at the MERLN Institute is focused on developing micron-sized designer biomaterials, and biomaterials-based bottom-up tissue engineering as well as on miniaturized *in vitro* models based on biomaterials. With a research that is centred around the development of advanced (bio)materials aiming to address regenerative medicine's demands, I find my scientific vision to be in line with that of ESB. This greatly motivates me to be an active member of ESB, and work for the advancement of the society that is hosting my research and that of my colleagues in Europe.

Throughout my academic path, I have continuously benefited from different communication and networking channels provided by ESB, including the annual conferences, the Young Scientist Forum (YSF) events and the associated journals, to expand my academic network. Through ESB, I have had access not only to the European community in biomaterials but also to the communities associated with the International Union of Societies for Biomaterials Sciences and Engineering (IUS-BSE). As a young PI, I have experienced the importance of such networking tools in my professional development and it would be my immense pleasure to contribute to enabling other young researchers to have access to these tools by working in the ESB council.

I would like to indicate that my ties with the ESB community date back to 2009, when I was just a master graduate and I decided to present the outcome of master thesis in the ESB annual conference in Lausanne. ESB 2009 was not only the first conference that I attended but also the event during which I became familiar with the work of the research group that later on hosted me as a PhD candidate. This is an additional ambition for me to work within the ESB council, where I can enable young researchers to have access to networking tools necessary for building a scientific career.

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For all of these reasons, I consider ESB my home community and I will be honoured to serve this community as a council member. Should I be elected for the ESB council, my ambition is to contribute to the ESB community by bridging the ESB council and the young researchers, for example through YSF, and help communicating the great knowledge of the ESB community, for example by liaising with scientific journals and relevant national and international communities.

At last, I would like to thank you for your time and consideration. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Zeinab (Niloofar) Tahmasebi Birgani



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