

November 3rd, 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am deeply grateful to SSIEM for the Travel Bursary, which allowed me to perform a training program in the field of analytical metabolic medicine at the Dietmar-Hopp Metabolic Center, University Hospital Heidelberg, on the period 04.09.2022 - 30.09.2022.

I would like to thank Prof. Stefan Kolker and Jürgen Okun for opening the door's lab and giving me all the support during these weeks.

In this period, I could explore different aspects of newborn screening and selective screening for inborn errors of metabolism. Beginning with the basics features of sample collection and pre-analytical procedures to analytical methods for neonatal screening and confirmatory tests. Additionally, I could discuss alternatives to avoid unnecessary recalls using second tier tests for different metabolic conditions.

I had the opportunity to observe and discuss the routine analysis with different technical and medical experts, including Dirk Kohlmüller, Joachim Janda, Dominic Lenz, Friederike Hörster, and Julia Rossmann, among others technicians from the screening center, which were very helpful to make me understand all variables included in the process.

I would like to thank the SSIEM for giving me the financial support to have this unique experience, that for sure will speed up my professional growth. The training was an incredible experience for my career and the knowledge acquired will also contribute a lot to the implementation of the expanded newborn screening strategy in Brazil.

Sincerely,

Larissa Faqueti, PhD

*Postdoctoral fellow at BioDiscovery Laboratory, Hospital de Clinicas de Porto Alegre, Brazil*