



P.O. Box 16 | 6700 AA | The Netherlands

Dr. Luis Larrondo
Departamento de Genética Molecular y Microbiología
Facultad de Ciencias Biológicas
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
Av. Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins 340,
Casilla 114-D,
Santiago
Chile

Dear dr. Larrondo,

With this letter, I would like to express my sincere and strong support for your initiative to set up +the **"Millennium Institute for Integrative Systems and Synthetic Biology (MISSB)"** with several partners in Chile. In my recent visits to Chile in 2015 and 2016, I have personally experienced that your previous consortium (MN-FISB) has made great progress in the past four years. It has been a great achievement that you and your consortium members have succeeded in describing a biological clock in *Botrytis cinerea* and characterizing its role in developmental decisions and virulence, as well as studying fungal cell wall integrity. The success is testified by the excellent publication record that you have built up in only short time. Especially the study on circadian rhythms regulating virulence in *B. cinerea*, published in PNAS in 2015, is a milestone and may be considered as future textbook material.

The strong and complementary expertise of the Institute members (i.e. dr. Canessa, plant experts and yourself) puts the MISSB in an excellent position to build a strong, integrated network in Chile in the field of fungal and plant biology. I am particularly optimistic that your program may lead to novel insights into plant pathogenic fungi and provide leads for developing novel disease control strategies.

My laboratory has studied *Botrytis cinerea* and other plant pathogenic *Botrytis* species for 25 years. When necessary, I can provide strategic support to your project. We have used various molecular and genomics approaches, including gene cloning and genome sequencing, RNA sequencing, targeted mutagenesis, as well as reporter gene fusions to study gene regulation and protein localization. I will gladly provide biological materials, host students from your laboratories, and provide specific training in this area of research.

I trust this provides you sufficient information for completing the grant proposal, and look forward to a fruitful collaboration between our labs in the future.

With kind regards,

Jan van Kan
Assistant Professor Phytopathology
Head of *Botrytis* research group

DATE
August 1, 2017

POSTAL ADDRESS
P.O. Box 16
6700 AA
The Netherlands

VISITORS' ADDRESS
Wageningen Campus
Building 107
Droevendaalsesteeg 1
6708 PB Wageningen

INTERNET
www.php.wur.nl/UK/
www.wur.nl/university

CoC NUMBER
09215846

HANDLED BY
Jan van Kan

TELEPHONE
* 31 317 483126

FAX
* 31 317 418094

EMAIL
jan.vankan@wur.nl