Partnership agreement
governing the joint supervision and awarding of a doctorate diploma
between Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Universidad Nacional del Nordeste

Between

- Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels (Belgium),
  hereinafter referred to as ‘VUB’,
  represented by Prof. Dr. Caroline Pauwels, Rector,

and

- Universidad Nacional del Nordeste, 25 de Mayo 868, 3400 Corrientes (Argentina)
  here in after referred to as ‘UNNE’
  represented by Prof. María Delfina Veiravé, Rector,

jointly referred to as the ‘the partner institutions’

and

- Tamara Eliana Barnes, hereinafter referred to as ‘the PhD candidate,

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

and in due observance of the following:

- the Flemish Higher Education Code (Codex Hoger Onderwijs) of 20 December 2013;
- the Flemish Government’s decision of 11 June 2004 establishing the form of the diplomas and the
  content of the accompanying diploma supplement awarded by institutions of higher education in
  Flanders, and annexes 5 and 6 in particular;
- the Central Regulations regarding the Conferment of PhD degrees of the VUB, approved by the
  Academic Council on 5 October 2015;
- the Regulation on Valorisation of the VUB, approved by the Board of Directors on 2 June 2015;
- National Law of Higher Education Nº 24.521 that regulates Higher Education in Argentina and
  ministerial resolutions Nº 160/11 and Nº 2385/15 that set the standards of postgraduate degrees
  and the regime of organization of careers, granting of degrees and bestowal of diplomas by the
  university institutions that belong to the National University System.
- The Charter of the National University of the Northeast and the resolution Nº 1100/15CS that
  establish the Postgraduate System of the University.
- The readiness on the part of professors Prof. Dr. Luc Leyns (VUB) and Prof. Dr. María Victoria
  Aguirre (UNNE) to assume supervision of the joint doctorate in execution of the present agreement;

the following has been agreed:
Article 1 – JOINT SUPERVISION AND THE AWARD OF A DOCTORAL DEGREE

The partner institutions hereby agree that they shall assume joint responsibility for the supervision of the PhD candidate’s doctoral research project, the organisation of the doctoral examination and the award of a doctoral degree.

PhD candidate’s personal details:
- Surname and first name: Tamara Eliana Barnes
- Date of birth: 24/10/1987
- Place of birth: Resistencia, Chaco - Argentina
- Nationality: Argentinian
- Official address (for correspondence): Langehaagstraat 59-1000 – Brussel - Belgium
- E-mail address: tbarnes@vub.ac.be

Article 2 – SUPERVISION OF THE PhD CANDIDATE

The PhD candidate shall be supervised by the following PhD supervisors:

- At the VUB:
  - Name: Luc Leyns
  - Faculty or Department: Laboratory of Cell Genetics (CEGE), Biology Department (DBIO)
  - Position: Tenured Professor, Chairman of the Biology department
- At UNNE:
  - Name: Maria Victoria Aguirre
  - Faculty or Department: Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences and Surveying
  - Position: Full Professor

The two PhD supervisors undertake to assume fully their responsibilities as the PhD candidate’s supervisors, which include holding consultations when required so as to be able to assess the progress being made in the research project.

Article 3 – ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES – DOCTORAL THESIS SUBJECT

The PhD candidate has been admitted to the doctoral programme by both partner institutions:

- At the VUB:
  - admission to the doctoral programme in Bio-Engineering Sciences
  - starting from academic year: 2014-2015
- At UNNE:
  - admission to the doctoral programme in Chemistry from the National University of the Northeast
  - starting from academic year: 2017-2018

The subject of the doctoral thesis is: ‘CLEAR-CELL RENAL-CELL CARCINOMA (CCRCC): CHARACTERIZATION AND COMPARATIVE GENE EXPRESSION PROFILING USING GENOME EDITING CRISPR/CAS9’
Article 4. — ENROLMENT AND REGISTRATION FEES

Each academic year, the PhD candidate is required to (re-)register as a PhD candidate at the VUB and pay the fixed registration fee. The PhD candidate is exempt from payment at VUB upon first enrolment and will only have to pay the fee in the year of defence. Enrolment is compulsory from the moment this agreement takes effect. Each academic year, the PhD candidate is required to (re-)register as a PhD candidate in the Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences and Surveying form the National University of the Northeast and pay the fixed registration fee.

Article 5. — AWARD OF THE DEGREE

In conformity with the regulations in force within each institution and on the basis of a favourable report from the examination board, the two institutions undertake to award a joint degree to the successful candidate - via two separate diplomas.

The two Institutions undertake to award a joint degree of
Doctor of Bio-Engineering Sciences from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel
and
Doctor of the Universidad Nacional del Nordeste in Chemistry from the National University of the Northeast

The awarded diplomas will mention the partnership with the other institution and the joint supervision of the thesis.

Article 6. — INSURANCE COVER

The PhD candidate undertakes to take all necessary steps in order to arrange health insurance, insurance cover against physical injuries and third party liability whilst performing his/her duties within the framework of the doctoral research project at the two partner institutions, in accordance with the national and institutional rules and regulations in force.

Article 7. — RESEARCH AT PARTNER INSTITUTION

The PhD candidate shall spend alternate or consecutive research periods at both partner institutions. The research periods are to be agreed following consultation between the PhD candidate and the supervisors. The supervisors shall see to it that the PhD candidate spends a minimum of 6 months of research at each of the partner institutions.

Article 8. — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Any contribution towards the costs related to periods of research spent at the partner institution, attendance of national and international conferences, the organisation of the PhD defence, and other costs specific to the PhD programme shall be discussed and determined in mutual agreement between the supervisors from the partner institutions.

Article 9. — EXAMINATION BOARD FOR THE DOCTORAL EXAMINATION

The examination board set up for the doctoral examination (doctoral thesis and the defence of the thesis) shall be composed by mutual consent between the partner institutions, in accordance with the regulations in force at the institutions. The examination board shall consist of a minimum of two members from each institution, including the supervisors, and a minimum of two members external to both partner institutions.

1 PhD candidates with a joint PhD agreement only pay tuition fees for the year of the defence. http://www.vub.ac.be/sites/vub/files/reglementen/studiegelden/STUDIEGELDEN_1415_030914.%20ENG.pdf
2 Choose 'joint' in case there is full equivalence between the doctoral degrees of the partner institutions. 'Double' in case there is no degree equivalence. Please delete as appropriate.
Article 10. – DOCTORAL THESIS DEFENCE

The public defence of the doctoral thesis shall take place at one of the partner institutions (in principle this is the home institution) but is recognised by all institutions involved. In the present case the public defence will take place at Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

Prior to the public defence a private defence will be organized at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, as required by VUB’s regulations.

Article 11. – LANGUAGE

DOCTORAL THESIS:
The doctoral thesis shall be written in English.
An abstract of the doctoral thesis shall be supplied in Dutch, English and Spanish.

DEFENCE:
The defence of the doctoral thesis is to take place in English.

Article 12. – PROTECTION OF RESEARCH RESULTS AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

The research results arising from the doctoral research project shall be the property of the VUB and UNNE.

The protection of the research results resulting 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 13. – COMMENCEMENT AND VALIDITY OF THE AGREEMENT

The present agreement shall take effect on February 2017 and expire on February 2018 at the latest. In the event the PhD candidate has failed to defend his/her doctoral thesis before this date, the agreement may be extended by common consent.

Article 14. – VALIDITY OF THE AGREEMENT AND SETTLEMENTS OF DISPUTES

The stipulations of this agreement may not conflict with the provisions of the Central Regulations regarding the Conferring of PhD degrees at the VUB, nor with the supplementary faculty regulations in place at the VUB faculty where the PhD project takes shape.

The stipulations of this agreement may not conflict with Argentinian law concerning the granting of the PhD degree, nor with the Regulations in force at UNNE.

In the event of conflicting stipulations that could be derived with respect to the execution of this Agreement, the parties shall resolve them through direct dialogue and in a friendly manner.

In the event of conflicting stipulations between the English and Spanish version, the English one shall take precedence.

This agreement shall be governed by Belgian law. Any disputes, which may not be settled amicably, shall be submitted to the competent courts of Brussels.
Drawn up in Brussels in two copies in English and two copies in Spanish, 11 January 2017

Prof. Dr. Caroline Pauwels,
Rector Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Prof. Dr. Eric Jespers
Dean Faculty of Sciences and Bio-Engineering Sciences, VUB

Prof. Dr. Luc Leyns
Supervisor, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Prof. Dr. Maria Delfina Veiravé,
Rector Universidad Nacional del Nordeste

Prof. Dr. María Victoria Aguirre
Supervisor, UNNE

Tamara Eliana Barnes,
PhD candidate