

**UMR1190  
Recherche Translationnelle  
sur le Diabète**

François Pattou MD, directeur  
Marie-Christine Vantghem MD PhD  
Julie Kerr-Conte PhD  
Valéry Gmyr PhD  
Thomas Hubert DVM PhD  
Mercé Jourdain MD, PhD.  
Caroline Bonner, PhD  
Rofigua Hakem, Human Resources  
Benjamin Legendre PhD, Project Manager

 **Université  
de Lille**

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La science pour la santé  
From science to health

Lille, May 7<sup>th</sup> 2023

**Object : Letter of Recommendation / IPITA Scientific Abstract Travel Award / Mehdi Maanaoui**

I first met Mehdi Maanaoui in 2009 while teaching a Master's I class in Cell and Gene Therapy. 2He was determined to do his research project for his Masters 2 in cell therapy and outside of Lille. He joined Pr Rabelink's group in Leiden, Holland on decellularization and recellularization of the kidney. Since 2016, Mehdi is now part of the teaching staff for the Masters 1 *Cell and Gene therapy unit* and more recently the Masters 2 Advanced Therapeutic Medicinal Products where he teaches cell therapy and tissue engineering in the kidney.

Mehdi was an excellent student at the very start of his medical studies (Rank : 2<sup>nd</sup> place) and throughout (Residency national classing exam: 218<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> in the University of Lille Medial faculty. 1<sup>st</sup> in the specialized DES Nephrology in Lille).

In 2020, Mehdi started his PhD in our lab with Francois Pattou on the optimization of islet transplantation by the co-transplantation of parathyroid cells .During the first year of his PhD, Mehdi successfully was able to obtain authorizations for multiple complex administrative dossiers for parathyroid harvesting for scientific research from brain deceased donors from Agence de la BioMedicine and from discarded parathyroids from the operating room (CODECO—Inserm). He is extremely detail oriented, is not easily discouraged, and is not afraid to call up the authorizing bodies to better understand their demands. In 2021, he and Francois applied to the FRM (Foundation of Medical Research) and were granted the Prix FRM Victoria Erminia Mescle 100000 euros).



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Faculté de Médecine de Lille – Pôle Recherche  
1, place de Verdun 59045 Lille cedex  
Tél. 333 20 62 69 63 Fax. 333 20 62 35 40  
E-mail francois.pattou@univ-lille.fr

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Mehdi is well read and is passionate about keeping up with the literature. He indeed has published an important number of articles and in top journals (NEJM – 2 letters, ) for someone of his age.

Since 2019, he's been an active member of TREPID, the French islet transplantation and pancreas transplant group – and in 2022 became the secretary.

Lastly, as VP of an ESOT study group EPITA I had the opportunity work with Mehdi to create the scientific content of the session "*Pushing the boundaries of organs before it's too late: pre-emptive regeneration*". at the ESOT meeting Milan 2021 and to co-chair the session with him. An article summarizing the session was published in Transplant international and made the cover of the issue.

On a personal level, Mehdi is a cheerful and agreeable person to be around full of laughter and acceptance of others. He is brilliant and professional, and has done exceptionally well for someone of his age. He lives and breaths the medical and scientific literature and has himself written and published articles, and very recently compared islet after kidney to kidney transplant results. The results are outstanding and will be submitted to a major medical journal.

Mehdi is young, talented, thirsty to learn and strives for perfection. For this reason I am convinced that Dr Mehdi Maanaoui is the ideal fellow for the new IPITA Scientific Abstract Travel Awards.

Cordially,

Julie Kerr-Conte PhD

Professor of Cell therapy/ Cell Biology

Deputy Director INSERM U1190

Director, Plateforme de Biothérapies

Chair of EPITA

cell (33) 673 692 276

jkerr-conte@univ-lille.fr



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Faculté de Médecine de Lille – Pôle Recherche  
1, place de Verdun 59045 Lille cedex  
Tél. 333 20 62 69 63 Fax. 333 20 62 35 40  
E-mail francois.pattou@univ-lille.fr