

9<sup>th</sup> June 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

**Re: European Masters in Sustainable Drug Discovery (S-DISCO)**

I am delighted to write in support of Professor Bart De Spiegeleer's application, along with three other EU Universities, for a European Masters in Sustainable Drug Discovery (S-DISCO). This is a great initiative, with Masters students gaining a joint Diploma from all of the Universities involved.

By way of background, I am a Professor of Chemistry and Director of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Innovations in Peptide and Protein Science (CIPPS) at the University of Queensland, one of the top-ranked universities in Australia and in the top 50 in the world. I am a Fellow of the Royal Society, and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science.

I have known Professor De Spiegeleer for nearly 10 years and visited his laboratory at Ghent University on several occasions. We have collaborated together, which resulted in two publications in 2016 and 2021 (Wang C K, Stalmans S, De Spiegeleer B, Craik D J: Biodistribution of the cyclotide MCoTI-II, a cyclic disulfide-rich peptide drug scaffold. *Journal of Peptide Science* (2016) **22**, 305-310 and Poth A G, et al: Effects of backbone cyclisation on the pharmacokinetics and drug efficiency of the orally active analgesic conotoxin cVc1.1. *Medicine in Drug Discovery* (2021) **10**, 100087). Through these collaborations I have learned not only of his scientific excellence, but his exceptional personal integrity and his high level organisational skills and I am therefore confident of this success of this new venture.

The European Masters in Sustainable Drug Discovery (S-DISCO) is a highly worthy initiative, and sustainable drug discovery is key to the future of the pharma industry. I am very supportive of this application and look forward to helping in any way I can. I look forward to collaborating with Professor De Spiegeleer into the future, and to following this initiative, with great interest.

Yours sincerely,



David J Craik, FRS, FAA  
Director, ARC Centre of Excellence for Innovations in Peptide and Protein Science