Dissertation Evaluation Report

Report No.	Diploma Number: DJ-BIO 23	Applicant's Name	Trang T.T. Hoang

Evaluators	Print name
	Chief Evaluator: Katsunori Yanagihara Evaluator: Norisato Mitsutake Evaluator: Hiroyuki Murota

Evaluation Report of Dissertation

1. Evaluation of the research purpose.

Neuropsychiatric SLE (NPSLE) varies in presentation and is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality among patients with SLE. In the previous report, the titer of anti-suprabasin (SBSN) antibodies in CSF of NPSLE patients was significantly higher than in SLE, MS and NPH groups. This analysis aimed to elucidate the predictive value of serum anti-SBSN antibodies and cytokines/chemokines for the development of NPSLE as this may have clinical utility prior to the onset of neuropsychiatric symptoms. The research purpose is considered appropriate.

2. Evaluation of the research methods.

They retrospectively analyzed 35 NPSLE patients, 34 SLE patients, 20 viral meningitis (VM) patients, and 16 relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (MS) patients who were admitted to Nagasaki University Hospital from 2014 to 2020. They measured anti-SBSN antibodies concentrations in serum by using Luciferase immunoprecipitation system (LIPS) assay. The serum concentrations of cytokines/chemokines were measured by using Multiplex cytokines and chemokines magnetic bead assay. The research method is valid.

3. Evaluation of the analysis, interpretation and discussion.

Anti-SBSN antibodies in serum, not alone but in combination with multiple biomarkers, can be crucial in discriminating between NPSLE and SLE. The most essential biomarkers are VEGF, anti-suprabasin antibodies, sCD40L, IL-10, GRO, MDC, IL-8, IL-9, TNF-α and MIP-1α.

As stated above, the dissertation will greatly contribute to the SLE field, and the evaluators uniformly agree that the dissertation is worthy of being approved for a Doctor of Philosophy in Medical Science.