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Dear esteemed ESID members,

With this letter of intent, I am writing to express my motivation for candidacy for the position of ESID Country Representative for Turkey. With a strong background in immunology and a dedication to fostering international scientific collaboration, I am eager to contribute to the advancement of our field and support the next generation of Turkish immunologists.

My journey in immunology began in two of Turkey's leading centers, Hacettepe University and Ankara University, where I specialized in bone marrow transplantation for immunodeficiencies. These experiences solidified my commitment to the field and provided me with a robust clinical foundation. However, I recognized the importance of expanding my laboratory skills and understanding the molecular mechanisms of immunodeficiencies, which led me to Vienna. For the past six years, I have been privileged to work as a postdoctoral researcher in Kaan Boztug's lab. My focus has been on elucidating the molecular mechanisms of inborn errors of immunity. This period was not only intellectually enriching but also allowed me to develop a global perspective on immunological research and practice.

Two months ago, I returned to Turkey to fulfill my compulsory service mandated by the Ministry of Health, a two-year commitment required of all Turkish doctors. Despite being a temporary position required of me, this transition marks an important phase in my career, offering me ample amount of time and opportunity to integrate my international experiences with the local healthcare and research environment.

As a "partially senior" junior ESID member, I am particularly motivated to bridge the gap between Turkey's young immunologists and the global scientific community. My goal is to transfer the knowledge and skills I have acquired abroad and to enhance the connectivity of Turkish immunologists with international peers. By doing so, I hope to foster a more vibrant, collaborative, and innovative environment for scientific and clinical immunology in Turkey.

I believe my experiences and vision align well with the objectives of ESID. As Country Representative, I would work diligently to support the society's mission, promote educational and research opportunities, and strengthen our network. I am confident that my dedication and international perspective will make a meaningful contribution to ESID and the broader immunology community.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the possibility of serving as ESID Country Representative for Turkey and contributing to the dynamic and growing field of immunology. Should you have any questions regarding my candidacy please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A. Sevgi Köstel Bal