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HDA project proposal committee

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DATE	PAGE
21 November 2024	1/2

### **Letter of recommendation for François Remy**

Dear Committee Members for HDA project call,

I am Associate Professor and co-leader of the Text to Knowledge (T2K) Research Group at the Internet Technology and Data Science Lab, Ghent University - imec, Belgium, and co-supervisor of François' Ph.D.

Throughout his doctoral studies, François has demonstrated exceptional research capabilities, an innovative mindset, and a collaborative spirit that have significantly contributed to our research group.

François's primary research focus has been the intersection of natural language processing and biomedical informatics. His most notable work, "BioLORD-2023: semantic textual representations fusing large language models and clinical knowledge graph insights," has been recognized as a major contribution to the field, with in total over 400,000 downloads of his trained model (e.g., to support improved clinical search in hospitals). This state-of-the-art model not only enhances the understanding of biomedical concepts in English but also creates a multilingual framework compatible with over 50 languages, which could serve as a vital resource for bioinformatics researchers worldwide.

In addition to the landmark paper, François has authored several other impactful studies throughout his PhD journey. His works, such as "Trans-Tokenization and Cross-lingual Vocabulary Transfers" and "In-Context Learning for Extreme Multi-Label Classification," showcase his ability to tackle complex challenges in low-resource natural language processing

DATE

21 November 2024

PAGE

2/2

and multi-label classification scenarios. These papers have already garnered citations, reflecting their significance in advancing research in these areas.

Moreover, François has proven to be an invaluable member of our research group, consistently providing constructive feedback and insightful contributions during our meetings. His ability to engage with his colleagues, offer suggestions, and facilitate discussions has fostered a collaborative atmosphere that has benefited everyone involved. François possesses a rare combination of academic rigor, his pursuit for high quality results, and interpersonal skills that make working with him a pleasure.

I am confident that François will excel in his future endeavors, whether in academia or industry. Besides his skills as a researcher and computer scientist, an equally important factor that makes me confident in that assessment, is his drive for advancing knowledge and technical possibilities in the biomedical and language technology domains.

Therefore, I fully support François' application for this project, and remain at your disposal to provide additional information to back up this letter of recommendation.

Yours faithfully,



Thomas Demeester

Associate Professor at the Internet Technology and Data Science Lab, Ghent University - imec  
Co-leader of the Text to Knowledge (T2K) Research Group