



August 09, 2022

To whom it may concern:

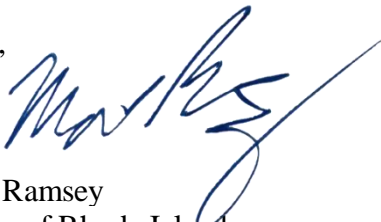
My name is Matthew Ramsey and I am an assistant professor at the University of Rhode Island in the Department of Cell and Molecular Biology. I am writing to give my highest possible recommendation for Dr. Dasith Perera. Dasith (Das) obtained his PhD in my laboratory here at URI. During the time in my lab, I got to know Das quite well both as a person and as a professional and am happy to hold him in extremely high regard as both.

Das worked primarily with *Haemophilus parainfluenzae* during his time in my lab and developed extensive knowledge of bacterial genetics and molecular biology during that time. He also had a side project that centered on the serum/blood microbiome of individuals with Type-II diabetes. Thus Dasith was able to learn several tools for microbiome analyses as well as RNASeq techniques and had exposure to other high-throughput nextgen sequencing based methodologies. He also helped quantify bacterial metabolites through enzymatic assays and did some work with microscopy and a wide array of bacterial culturing, isolation and identification techniques. I would say that Das had a fairly well rounded training experience while here at URI and that he performed quite well.

Dasith graduated a little earlier than many of his peers and despite a huge slowdown/interruption from covid during his last years in the lab he still produced two 1<sup>st</sup>-author publications. I am certain he would have been able to produce at least 1-2 more without the interruptions of covid-19 during his last 2 years as a PhD student. Das is incredibly diligent, keeps good records, and is always thinking of ideas and hypotheses, to a much higher degree than any of his peers that I have encountered or trained in my 5 years at URI. Dasith is the best trainee I have had to date and I know that I was lucky to have a student like him. I think he will be entirely successful wherever he goes and that you would also be lucky to have such an intelligent employee with as strong as a work ethic as Das. In addition to his work Das is a genuinely funny and caring person and we miss his presence in the lab to this day. I quite enjoyed getting to know him during his time here and still enjoy his company.

In summary, I want to give Das my highest possible recommendation and if I can answer any questions or do anything else to assist please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Matthew Ramsey  
University of Rhode Island  
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