Recently, the clinical laboratories have been described as "the nerve center of diagnostic medicine" as they provide indispensable information for screening, prevention, early diagnoses, personalized monitoring, and effective monitoring of human diseases. However, in the last 5 decades the clinical laboratory together with its workforce, the biomedical scientists, have faced various challenges mostly due to the scientific progress, rapid technologic advances, the changing medical landscape of disease and the approach to diagnosis and therapy. This highlights the importance of continuing education in this field.

As a biomedical scientist who has been working in a Medical Microbiology laboratory for the past couple of years I constantly feel the need to continue to learn and develop throughout my career so to keep my skills and knowledge up-to-date with the latest developments. Therefore, my decision to enroll for a Master's of Science course in biomedical science is quite understandable. Nevertheless, this decision was hindered for quite some time by the financial burden that this course would incur. Providentially, the Endeavour scholarship scheme (Malta) provided me with the opportunity to study the course of my choice in one of the best UK universities, Ulster University. The course chosen was mainly intended for career advancement of biomedical scientists who are already working in the Healthcare sector. The course focused on current aspects of biomedical science which included biotechnology, stratified medicine and pharmacogenomics, evidence-based practice in health sciences, quality management, and biostatistics and research methods. The course also offered an opportunity for critical reflection and evaluation of current practice and policies, enabling lifelong learning and professional development in biomedical science. In addition, it also allowed specialization in Medical Microbiology. The research project I conducted as part of this course sought to determine the prevalence of *Mycoplasma genitalium* (*M. genitalium*) and macrolide resistance in patients attending the genitourinary clinic at Mater Dei Hospital in Malta. Additionally, correlates and co-morbidities were also assessed in order to determine the risk factors for *M. genitalium* infection and macrolide resistance. The findings from this study support the introduction of new techniques in the microbiology laboratory that will detect this particular pathogen and its antibiotic resistance in less time and therefore will help reduce transmission of resistant strain and avoid problems associated with persistent untreated infections leading to better patient management and less hospital costs.

In conclusion, being able to undertake and successfully complete this Masters of Science degree has also contributed to build up my confidence which help me practice my profession safely and effectively and as an autonomous professional, exercising my own professional judgement and at the same time reflect and review the practices constantly.

Rosann Zammit Cassar

"This degree (Masters of Science in Biomedical Science (Medical Microbiology) was carried out following the award of an ENDEAVOUR Scholarships Scheme which is being funded out of National Funds"