

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL 1

| Category | Sub-category | Excellent | Possible points |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Content | Comprehensive introduction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enough background is provided to introduce the topic Significance of the topic with regards to (neuro)inflammation is explicitly articulated | 10 |
| | Evidence-based argument(s) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empirical evidence is used to support the investigation of the topic in the context of (neuro)inflammation | 10 |
| | Hypothesis statement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explicit mention of the research question and the team's hypothesis Evidence-based prediction(s) | 10 |
| Format | References | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A minimum of 5 scientific articles are used as reference References were properly and consistently cited in text and bibliography | 5 |
| | Length and structure guidelines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes a minimum of 2 pages of well-written text Formatting: 1" margins, 12-font, single or 1.5 space | 5 |
| Overall Assessment | Overall organization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written document follows a logical and sequential order | 5 |
| | Well-written paper | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proof-read and free of typos | 5 |

S1. Grading rubric for the research proposal.