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Medical School Recommendation Letter

Dear members of the Selection Committee:

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I recommend XXXX for a faculty position in the department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco. XXXX is an outstanding clinician and capable researcher. I am confident that the synthesis of his intellect, skills, and ethical qualities will make him a tremendous asset to our Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Division. I met XXXX over ten years ago, when he was assigned to work with me as a lab technician during my postdoctoral research work at UCSF. We worked closely together for two years, and his help was instrumental to the outcome of my experiments.

I immediately recognized XXXX unparalleled work ethic, meticulousness, and enthusiasm for neuroscience, and they left a strong, positive impression. From the start, he compensated for any gaps in knowledge with enthusiasm and hard work. Over the course of our work together, I witnessed firsthand his transition from a lab technician to an independently minded scientist with creative ideas. By the end of his work in our lab, he had matured academically, and would often offer productive ideas essential to my work.

Even more importantly, XXXX developed his own scientific paradigm. He established the capacity to choose the right questions, and maintained a passionate approach to pursuing valuable topics in neuroscience that might otherwise have been overlooked. I was particularly impressed by his hypothesis that proposed that cognitive deficits associated with Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome might share radiological, serological and other biomarkers with neurodegenerative conditions such as Alzheimer Disease. While his idea was too ambitious at the time, I was deeply impressed by the scope of his reasoning, as well as by his innate tendency to seek connections between seemingly unrelated processes.

Following his graduation from medical school, XXXX again joined my lab at UCSF as a postdoctoral scholar. In this iteration, he was granted increased autonomy, and employing his newly acquired clinical knowledge, was able to offer more sophisticated experiments. His project in my lab involved the characterization nuances of glutamate release. Once again, XXXX demonstrated his aptitude as a superb researcher, hard worker, and team player.

After a year at my lab, XXXX left for a psychiatry residency at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. It is my understanding that while there he earned a stellar clinical reputation and published close to eight papers in little more than a year and a half, all without having any protected time for academic work. While at Mount Sinai, XXXX explored the clinical side of mental health; among his papers, I observed case series' that explored the crossover between organized brain injury and psychosis, as well as review papers that tied fragmented concepts into a unified thesis. In addition to all this, he initiated an ambitious Autism Spectrum Disorder genetics project, completing a metavariable statistical analysis of the phenotype and genotype relationship in Phelan-McDermin Syndrome.

The nexus of the scientific approach that he applies to every aspect of his work, including clinical practice, his empathic and caring nature, and his astute insight into patients' pathology, makes him a great clinician and one whose candidacy I support. To complement this rigorous scientific profile, XXXX is also extremely collegial and well-liked by his coworkers. His capacity to maintain a diplomatic stance with his colleagues is a further professional attribute that will be instrumental to his success.

I am excited at the prospect of him working at UCSF. XXXX enthusiasm, intellect, desire to innovate and genuine care for his patients will make him a great asset to our Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Division. I believe that my many years of experience with XXXX grant me a unique insight into his ability to take on the responsibility of the position. I can say with full confidence that his experience, tenacity, scientific talent and intellect make him the right person for this job.

XXXX has the drive, talent, and personal qualities necessary to become a leader in academic psychiatry. I believe that the learning process is one with which he will be engaged his entire life, and truly hope that he will be given the chance to invest his energy, enthusiasm, and clinical talent at the UCSF Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. For these well-considered factors, I give XXXX my highest possible recommendation for a clinical faculty position at UCSF Psychiatry.

I would be glad to answer any further questions regarding this candidate.

Sincerely,

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