

January 15, [REDACTED]

Vivian Fonseca, MD  
Daniel Kapusta, PhD  
Amanda Staiano, PhD  
Directors, LA CaTS Professional Development Core

RE: [REDACTED] MD  
Roadmap Scholar Applicant

Dear Drs. Fonseca, Kapusta and Staiano:

It is a pleasure for me to provide a letter of support for Dr. [REDACTED] in his application to become a LA CaTS Roadmap Scholar for [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] having joined the faculty in [REDACTED] as Assistant Professor of Medicine in [REDACTED]. As you can see from his CV, [REDACTED] is exceedingly well trained. He received his MD at [REDACTED] followed by residency and chief residency in [REDACTED] at the same institution. He has completed fellowship training in [REDACTED], where he was described as one of the best fellows ever to train there. While at [REDACTED] developed an interest in clinical research and clinical education. Taking advantage of a large population of [REDACTED] patients undergoing [REDACTED] surgery and mentorship from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] initiated and carried through to publication a number of clinical research studies dealing with [REDACTED]. In addition, [REDACTED] made regular abstract and oral research presentations at the international conference of the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] as well as numerous educational presentations to the faculty and fellows at [REDACTED].

Since joining [REDACTED] has rapidly integrated himself into Section activities and has proven to be an integral member of the [REDACTED] Medicine. Thoughtful and well-read, [REDACTED] is well-liked by the fellows and is a skilled educator. Consistent with his fellowship interest in [REDACTED] complications, we have assigned him to a [REDACTED] clinic along with Dr. ABC, who will serve as mentor for the proposed scholarship. [REDACTED] has also worked in concert with one of our [REDACTED], to found a clinic in [REDACTED] for patients with [REDACTED] disease. In addition, [REDACTED] has also spearheaded a collaborative partnership with [REDACTED] which we are particularly excited about. This partnership will allow [REDACTED] to function as a satellite site for a multi-center [REDACTED] research network.

I feel that we were fortunate to recruit [REDACTED] to join the [REDACTED] Medicine, and I want to do everything I can to assure that he continues his training and success in clinical research. To that end, I feel that [REDACTED] is an ideal candidate for training as a LA CaTS Roadmap Scholar. He is obviously committed to a career in clinical research.

In the attached Research Plan, we plan to extend [REDACTED] to a translational study of [REDACTED] patients. This study will be done in concert with XYZ, PhD, from the Department of [REDACTED], and will address [REDACTED] patients. The human subject component of this project proposes to test [REDACTED] patients as a means of modulating this balance in human subjects. This is a novel and relatively untested form of therapy for [REDACTED], and may well open up a completely new avenue of treatment for these patients. Mechanistic studies will take place in mice with the assistance of Dr. XYZ. The [REDACTED] currently conducts a number of clinical trials in [REDACTED] and has 4 full-time research nurses on payroll. We have the subjects and the infrastructure to support [REDACTED]'s research. We have identified [REDACTED] funds to cover expenses of the proposed clinical research (recruitment fees, etc.). The [REDACTED] drug will be provided by the manufacturer. [REDACTED] has already applied for IRB approval for the clinical research component of the project.

Mentorship for [REDACTED]'s research will be provided by a mentorship team of Drs. ABC, XYZ, and QRS. Dr. ABC is Professor of Medicine in the [REDACTED] and PI for the [REDACTED] site. ABC is also PI for a number of clinical trials for investigational therapies in [REDACTED] and directs a weekly referral clinic for patients with [REDACTED]. He has expertise in the use of [REDACTED], such as those proposed for use by Dr. [REDACTED] patients. A copy of Dr. ABC's biosketch is attached. XYZ is Professor of [REDACTED] with a research focus on [REDACTED]. Dr. XYZ will provide the basic science component of [REDACTED]'s training and will help [REDACTED] translate findings related to [REDACTED]. A copy of Dr. XYZ's biosketch is attached. I am the Professor of Medicine at [REDACTED]. I am PI of a [REDACTED]. I have experience fostering the academic development of junior faculty such as Dr. [REDACTED]. A copy of my biosketch is attached as well. [REDACTED] have worked with [REDACTED] to develop his Research Plan with the goal of generating preliminary data for a K application within 18 months. The mentorship team plans to meet with [REDACTED] on a weekly basis to go over his research and to be sure he is given sufficient resources to meet his goals. In addition, [REDACTED] will receive mentorship support through LA CaTS and will do coursework for a Masters of Science in Clinical Research. I will work to assure that [REDACTED] is provided with sufficient resources to complete his clinical research at the [REDACTED], and if feasible, at other sites within the LA CaTS network.

I am well aware of the importance of protected time for young investigators and the requirement of 75% protected time as a LA CaTS Roadmap Scholar. It will be my responsibility to assure that [REDACTED]'s time is so protected during the initial 5 years of his time on faculty and as a Roadmap Scholar. [REDACTED] will have clinical responsibilities but these will not consume greater than 25% of his time. When on clinical service, [REDACTED] will provide attending duties at [REDACTED] Hospital (full-time effort) and on the [REDACTED] consultation service at the [REDACTED] Hospital in New Orleans (half-time effort). He will not be assigned as attending for the [REDACTED] during his first year. [REDACTED] will do one half-day of clinic per week. During that half-day, he will assist Dr. ABC in the [REDACTED] Clinic which is relevant to his research plan. I will limit his exposure to hospital or university committee work

while [REDACTED] is a Roadmap Scholar. I am committed to providing sufficient protected time for [REDACTED] to complete his research plan as a Roadmap Scholar to complete his coursework for a Masters in Clinical Research, and to compete for a K award from the NIH.

In summary, [REDACTED] has my whole-hearted support for training as a LA CaTS Roadmap Scholar. I feel that he is an ideal candidate for this award, and that this training will pay off with the blossoming career of a talented and productive clinical investigator.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

Chief, Section of .....