

January 27, [REDACTED]

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

RE: [REDACTED], PhD
Roadmap Scholar Applicant

Dear Drs. Fonseca, Kapusta and Staiano:

I am enthusiastically writing a letter on behalf of Dr. [REDACTED], who is an applicant for the Roadmap Scholars Program through LA CaTS. I have known [REDACTED] since she joined the [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] shows great promise as a scholar committed to the [REDACTED]—a public health issue that is particularly relevant to Louisiana where [REDACTED]. I would be eager to partner with [REDACTED] in a mentoring capacity and support her receipt of this fellowship without reservations.

During [REDACTED]'s time at [REDACTED], I have had the opportunity to work closely with her on developing and submitting a large grant through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Through collaboration with the [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and I proposed testing the efficacy of a [REDACTED] to bolster the effects of an evidence-based [REDACTED]. Although ultimately unfunded, I respected the tenacity and attention to detail that [REDACTED] paid in developing this proposal. From this process, I observed [REDACTED]'s commitment to community-engaged research, strong command of the research literature, and her investment in developing rich interdisciplinary partnerships.

I also have worked closely with [REDACTED] on preparing a manuscript for publication in the [REDACTED] journal. I granted [REDACTED] access to one of my qualitative datasets that investigated the contextual factors that inform [REDACTED]'s definitions of [REDACTED]. This data included [REDACTED] key-informant interviews collected from [REDACTED] in New Orleans. [REDACTED] performed a secondary analysis of this dataset, augmented the literature review, and edited the results and discussion sections. I was impressed that [REDACTED] quickly familiarized herself with this project and worked in collaboration with my research team to prepare this article for publication. She is currently working on a second article from the same dataset that investigates [REDACTED]'s perceptions of the [REDACTED]. I am eager to see the final draft of the paper, and I am optimistic that it will make a significant contribution to the field.

As a graduate of the [REDACTED], [REDACTED] came to [REDACTED] with a strong training background. While in her doctoral program, [REDACTED] was

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

awarded the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Prevention traineeship and the NIH Clinical Health Research Traineeship with the Institute for Translational Health Sciences. From what I understand, both of these awards are quite competitive and provide the recipients with the training opportunities to bolster their skillsets in translational and interdisciplinary research.

While at [REDACTED], [REDACTED] took advantage of internal career development mechanisms, including applying for and receiving both a [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] grants. She also participated in [REDACTED]'s training program for submitting successful grant applications to the National Institutes of Health. These opportunities will provide a strong foundation for [REDACTED] to launch a robust research career.

I am excited to learn more about [REDACTED]'s plan to develop a [REDACTED] to promote the development of [REDACTED] in their [REDACTED] environments. As a mentor in public health, I can provide [REDACTED] with tangible support in conducting multi-level research in [REDACTED], provide a theoretical orientation to [REDACTED] based approaches to [REDACTED], and support [REDACTED] in navigating the dynamics of collecting data on [REDACTED]. My academic background in investigating the community-level determinants of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will be instructive in understanding the rich interplay of complex factors that influence [REDACTED]. Also, having been a co-investigator on a recent project using [REDACTED], I can help advise [REDACTED] on intervention adaptation and implementation using new technologies. Further, as the recipient of an NIH K01 award myself, I can help [REDACTED] with the next stages of her research development through NIH. I am eager to support [REDACTED] in conducting a feasibility study, as an important first step in assessing the utility of such an intervention.

In conclusion, I am very excited to see [REDACTED]'s career unfold. [REDACTED] will make a strong candidate for the Roadmap Scholars Program, and I am committed to supporting her career moving forward. This type of award will provide the much-needed protected time, that can support the development of junior scholar's research agendas. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED], PhD, MA
Associate Professor
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]