

Date

Robert D. Roghair, M.D.
Associate Professor of Pediatrics – Neonatology
Director, Iowa Medical Student Research Program (IMSRP)

Dear Dr. Roghair and Members of the UI CCOM Research Council:

It is my pleasure to write this Nomination Letter to mentor **Student A** in the Research Distinction Track (RDT) for Medical Students at the University of Iowa. I have known **Student A** since she was an undergraduate student at the University of Iowa. She previously completed an honors thesis in my laboratory. She has gone on to work in my laboratory two additional summers – as a pre-M1 and pre-M2 students. During those summers, Student A completed 12-week research projects on a full-time basis.

Student A has carried out several projects with older adults in our laboratory: 1) a behavioral decision making study in community-dwelling elders involving a risk-taking measure called the Coin Flip Task; 2) a structural MRI study examining brain morphology in relation to decision making behavior among older adults; and 3) a cancer survivorship study with elderly breast cancer survivors. Student A presented the progress of her work with a poster presentation during pre-M1 and an oral presentation during pre-M2 summers, both at the Medical Student Research Day. Since last summer, Student A has stayed in regular contact with me and has, much to my surprise, found some time to continue to work with her data.

To complete Student A's projects and to meet the requirements of RDT, our plan is as follows. This summer, Student A will continue to write-up her projects for publication. During her M3 and M4 years, Student A will spend a minimum of 4 additional weeks in our laboratory to complete her projects. Student A will also attend our weekly lab meetings when able, in addition to quarterly meetings with me. I would like for Student A to have the opportunity to present her findings at a national conference.

In closing, Student A has been a pleasure to work with and I look forward to completing her RDT projects over the next two years.

Sincerely,

Signature