

8/5/2015

Dear Medical School Application Reviewer,

I am writing a letter of support for Dr. Jeff Datto PhD. Dr. Datto wishes to renew his medical studies. I have known Jeff through intermittent contact while he has been working in the Miami Project for about 4-5 years.

He has been employed by Dr. Damien Pearse, who is an outstanding spinal cord researcher and has a large and productive laboratory. Dr. Pearse has mentored several trainees who have gone forward to independent success.

Jeff has a number of publications from his work in process and has earned a PhD and presented at a number of important scientific meetings.

Jeff sought me out as an adviser and has appraised me at several time points of his progress. He appears to truly care about the spinal cord injury field. I have not worked with him directly but have heard that he is an excellent teacher to junior people in his lab group.

The exposure to the field of spinal cord injury at the Miami Project is quite unique due to its interdisciplinary structure. The program spans from discovery science to a number of active clinical trials. Jeff has been an active participant at the numerous research discussions that occur through the academic year, often asking pertinent questions. He has now had a good period of time to learn and absorb the current status of research in the neurotrauma field and to appreciate the research process on several levels. Such a period of preparation should make his MD training even more worthwhile. Our field has a need for scientist-clinicians as the total number across the globe is rather small, and increasingly PhD dominated due to the escalated productivity demands on MDs. I feel Jeff could make a contribution from several different eventual career pathways, and would really benefit from a current and high quality MD education.

Sincerely,



J Guest MD, PhD, FACS

Clinical Professor of Neurological Surgery

Neurological Surgery and the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis

1095 NW 14th Terrace

Miami, FL, 33136

305-243-8185, jguest@med.miami.edu