

August 30, 2015

Admissions Committee:

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Jeffrey Peter Datto, Ph.D.

I am pleased to write a strong letter of recommendation for Jeffrey Datto, Ph.D. My first contact with Dr. Datto was in my capacity as a Scientist/Clinician through the Miami Project at the University of Miami. Dr. Datto currently works here as a post-doctoral candidate and we collaborated with my colleagues there on research.

As you will see in Dr. Datto's application, he has a non-traditional path when applying to medical school. He originally was an MD/Ph.D. student at Thomas Jefferson University. His training was interrupted with a diagnosis of Bipolar Disorder. Dr. Datto describes to me he had suffered from the side effects of his medications which had been prescribed to him at the time. The side effects made continuing his medical studies impossible, as he has detailed in his personal statement. However, he has since received independent psychiatric evaluations which disagreed with his prior treatment and diagnosis and pharmacological interventions have been ceased. In fact, Dr. Datto has been very productive at the Miami Project as a Post-Doctoral Associate where he is first author on several recent manuscripts including *"Does Being Female Provide a Neuroprotective Advantage Following Spinal Cord Injury? Our View into Recent Research Discrepancies"* which has been accepted in the journal **Neural Regeneration Research**.

Dr. Jeffery Datto has a unique insight into the rigors of medical school having been admitted to and having started medical school once before. Indeed, he has insight into the life of a psychiatric patient as well. He is very determined to reach his goal of becoming a physician/scientist, having already demonstrated his abilities as a scientist. To refresh his insight into the current clinical world, he has shadowed me and some of my colleagues during Cranial Trauma rounds on the weekend and he is planning to shadow me in my clinics. I recognize that shadowing is very difficult to arrange around the schedule of an active researcher.

I have found Dr. Datto to be driven and intelligent. He clearly has been working diligently for years to overcome devastating setbacks during his original MD/Ph.D. training. I would support him being interviewed for medical school so that you may get to know this talented non-traditional candidate.

Please feel free to contact me with questions regarding Dr. Datto.

Sincerely,



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