

July 18, 2016

Re: Dr. Jeffrey Datto

Dear Medical School Admission Selections Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I write in support of Dr. Jeffrey Datto and his application to the University of Central Florida School of Medicine for early decision. Jeff has worked for the past 3 years within The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis. Given my interactions with him, I can enthusiastically state that he is a serious, dedicated and bright scientist who is committed to obtaining a MD degree with the goal of pursuing translational research in CNS injury.

At The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, Jeff has been very productive in his research studies in spinal cord injury (SCI). Jeff has already authored manuscripts based on his studies with Dr. Damien Pearce. One of these studies evaluated the interaction between cutaneous allodynia and locomotor performance after SCI. Jeff discovered that the sensation of pain itself is a covariate affecting locomotor function after SCI, which could potentially mask or confound treatment effects. This study will have a significant impact on the field and influence how investigators interpret their pre-clinical SCI behavioral data.

I have also interacted directly with Jeff through the Miami Brain Fair, which is a community education outreach event sponsored by the University of Miami. The Miami Brain Fair educates over 1500-3000 children and adults each year about neuroscience during Brain Awareness Week. This is a high quality event, made possible by the hundreds of volunteers from the University of Miami and six other universities that educate the children and adults. Jeff has served as a supervisor of the event for the past several years, ensuring that the hundreds of educators at the event are well-coordinated and that the exhibits are operating smoothly. He has been an outstanding professional at this events, handling all problems he encounters independently, effectively and positively.

Jeff graduated magna cum laude from Johns Hopkins University, and received his PhD in Cell and Tissue Engineering from Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. He remains committed to attending Medical School and is very passionate about becoming a clinical researcher in CNS injury. In my interactions with Jeff, I can confidently state that he demonstrates a high level of integrity and professionalism that will serve him well as a future physician. Thank you for considering his application for early decision at the University of Central Florida School of Medicine.

Sincerely,



W. Dalton Dietrich, PhD
Professor Neurological Surgery and Neurology
Scientific Director, The Miami Project
Senior Associate Dean for Discovery Science