

Vivien Chen

July 29, 2016

Dear Medical Admissions Committee,

I am compelled to write this letter of support for Dr. Jeffrey Datto because I believe he deserves this opportunity to attend your medical school program and will be a great addition to your program. I am student in the Medical Scholars Program at the University of Miami. Dr. Datto was my undergraduate research mentor in the lab of Dr. Damien Pearse at The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, and we worked together for about one year.

Dr. Datto is empathetic, diligent, and trusting, and he has consistently demonstrated these qualities in serving as an excellent mentor to numerous undergraduate students including myself. When I first joined the lab, he took the extra time to discuss my skills and interests, working together to develop a suitable project for me. Dr. Datto dedicates time to ensure that his students develop an in-depth grasp of the fundamental principles of the scientific method and the biological science behind our work. He is eager to teach his students new lab skills, explaining not only the technicalities but also the reasoning behind each step. We are constantly encouraged to expand our knowledge base by asking questions, reading online literature, and attending the variety of guest lectures that the Miami Project brings to campus. Frequently welcoming new students, Dr. Datto displays a constant enthusiasm to guide students towards substantial research initiatives. At the same time, he is supportive of our personal goals and provides a platform from which we can develop independence in carrying out our research.

Through my time in the lab, I have had the opportunity to observe Dr. Datto interact with not just his students, but other lab members as well. Leading by example, Dr. Datto is an ideal team player who is resourceful and efficient, accomplishing tasks with great initiative and positivity. One of the projects that I worked on with him required extensive statistical analysis, and so we reached out to a biostatistician. In formulating and pursuing research questions, Dr. Datto carefully considers alternative approaches or solutions and does not hesitate to collaborate with others. He is a great role model and his perseverance to complete his medical education is inspirational. Four of his students including I have been accepted into the MD program at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine under his mentorship.

It is evident that Dr. Datto's superb qualities and accomplishments both as an outstanding mentor and as an invaluable member of the Pearse lab are driven by his passion for the medical sciences and his diligent, open, and inquisitive nature. I believe the same characteristics that make him an exceptional mentor make him well suited to become a genuine, resourceful, and caring physician. For these reasons, I highly recommend Dr. Jeffrey Datto for admission into

your medical program. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Vivien Chen", with a stylized, cursive script.

Vivien Chen
University of Miami, Class of 2017
Biochemistry and Nutrition Major