



THE MIAMI PROJECT TO CURE PARALYSIS
AN INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SPINAL CORD INJURY RESEARCH

October 12, 2018

Craig H. Neilsen Foundation LOI Review Board

Dear Review Board:

This letter enthusiastically supports the submission of Jeffrey P. Datto, Ph.D. Pilot Grant entitled, "BBBDT Cell Delivery for SCI" to the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation. The study is focused on developing a new, minimally-invasive method for cell delivery after experimental spinal cord injury. Enhancing cell delivery to the injured spinal cord following systemic delivery could provide an alternative for cell types that have been employed to date only intraspinally and allow careful investigation for those cells currently delivered in this fashion. The proposed endeavors will assess the safety and efficacy of this novel cell delivery approach using the combination of intravenous mannitol and systemic administration of Schwann cells and Mesenchymal stem cells in a preclinical SCI paradigm with biochemical, histological and behavioral endpoints.

Dr. Datto has extensive experience in the field of experimental spinal cord injury and novel therapeutic approaches including cell transplantation strategies. He is ideally suited to make great strides and achieve success in this field, as indicated by his track record and creative proposal.

As the Miami Project Scientific Director, we assure that the Miami Project and University of Miami will provide the space, equipment, time, and support Dr. Datto requires to attain the goals of the proposed research, and to facilitate his development as an independent investigator and academic scholar. We look forward to the results of the proposal.

Sincerely,

W. Dalton Dietrich, PhD
Scientific Director, The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis
Senior Associate Dean for Discovery Science
Professor of Neurological Surgery, Neurology
Biomedical Engineering and Cell Biology

