



October 17, 2003

Dear Program Director,

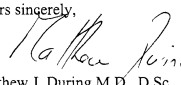
I am writing this letter in support of **Jeffrey Peter Datto, AAMC ID: [REDACTED]**, who is applying to your residency program. I initially met Jeffrey when he (as President) together with other executive members of the Jefferson Gene Therapy Society came to my office asking for my support and endorsement. I was pleased to learn of the society and their efforts, and helped foster their enthusiasm. Jeffrey specifically impressed me, so I asked him to consider my laboratory for his PhD studies. Since then, Jeffrey has distinguished himself as an extremely hard working, goal oriented person, with great charisma and excitement for medical research. Jeffrey also relates well with his peers and is viewed as being a highly valued member of the lab. Jeffrey is always affable and pleasant, never hesitates to ask questions at lab meetings, and is an ambitious learner. He possesses a proficiency in many basic laboratory techniques and often serves as a resource to other students. In one specific example, Jeffrey selflessly dedicated his free time to serve as a mentor for a rotating masters student helping her with basic science techniques in my lab. He was an integral part of her education during her clerkship.

In addition to his professional behavior, Jeffrey also possesses an exceptional grasp of the intangible complexities of scientific research and the field of CNS gene therapy. He has an obvious inclination toward scientific creativity and inquisitiveness. His research resulted in two significant findings including the use of NMDAR1 antibodies to significantly reduce neuronal cell death in a rat model of spinal cord injury and the use of adeno-associated virus serotype 1 for global gene delivery to the central nervous system.

Jeffrey's research is likely to lead to clinical applications in the future. I believe his soft-spoken understated approach and altruism towards others in the lab carries over to how he treats patients at the bedside. From my personal interactions with Jeffrey, I know his motivation for his research is largely driven by his desire to help patients who suffer from central nervous system insults, especially patients with spinal cord injuries.

In summary, I believe that Jeffrey's work ethic, altruism, motivation, and leadership skills are key characteristics that will ultimately lead to his continued success as an academic clinician. I have no reservations in saying that he has great potential, and has already contributed to medical science, but he is likely to make highly significant contributions to medicine and humanity throughout his career, and will be an asset to any residency program.

Yours sincerely,


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