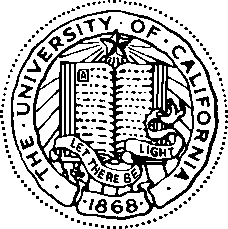
\* SANTA BARBARA  SANTA CRUZ



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May 4th, 2023

Dear IPITA-IXA-CTRMS scientific congress committee,

It is with a great deal of enthusiasm that I support Dr. Simon Chu’s application for a prestigious and highly competitive scientific congress award. I am pleased to be able to serve as a sponsor for Dr. Chu, who I have had the privilege to mentor since he was a medical student at UCSF. At that time, he studied the immune response in transplant recipients living with HIV. His accomplishments in the lab as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute fellow earned him a top award at the yearly resident research symposium amongst a highly competitive group of residents. We were so pleased that he decided to pursue a surgical residency at UCSF with a focus on transplantation – a perfect fit combining his passions for surgery and science.

His academic accomplishments are evidenced by his impressive CV, which I won’t elaborate on. Of equal and perhaps greater significance has been his impressive performance as a surgery resident. During his first three years, he established himself as an exceptional and talented resident – and regarded by his fellow residents as a highly collegial, competent, and collaborative colleague. As a resident research fellow, Dr. Chu wanted to pursue a high impact project, and is working with a team at the UCSF Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regeneration Medicine and Stem Cell Research, including Dr. Julie Sneddon (a stem cell biologist) and Dr. Kyle Cromer (a genome engineer and molecular biologist). The specific focus of his abstract submission is a novel technique to improve the safety of stem cell-derived islets used to reverse diabetes when transplanted into people with Type 1 diabetes. These is because the risk of uncontrolled growth and neoplasms are of significant concern, particularly if the stem cell-derived islet are place into the portal system. For that reason, his work utilized the integration of inducible safety switches into stem cell-derived islets to order to add a safety layer in the event of neoplastic transformation. In his first six months, he has already impressed the faculty working with his intellectual ability and incredible work ethic. I have no doubts he will succeed with this focused project, and the environment and excellent mentors at the UCSF Stem Cell facility are ideally suited to facilitate completion of this important project.

In summary, I cannot think of a more exceptional candidate to benefit from this highly competitive and prestigious award. Of equal significance, Simon would greatly benefit from exposure to the IPITA-IXA-CTRMS community – and the excitement, learning and fun that is associated with our meetings and society.

Sincerely,



Peter G Stock, MD, PhD Professor of Surgery

Surgical Director of Pancreas Transplantation and Primary Pancreas Surgeon University of California, San Francisco