



DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS

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Dear Review Committee:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of support for Dr. Vaka Sigurjonsdottir, who is applying for the 2022 young investigator award. She is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Iceland, collaborating with Stanford and conducting clinical research in the field of pediatric kidney transplantation. She is an assistant professor of clinical pediatrics at the University of Miami.

I have observed her closely in patient care settings since she joined our department in November 2021 and have been impressed by her motivation and drive to succeed. She is diligent and perseverant, and we embrace her as a key member of our team. She is compassionate and dedicated to her patients and strives to practice evidence-based medicine.

Dr. Sigurjonsdottir is completing her Ph.D. and is committed to acquiring an in-depth knowledge of research design and methodology as she continues to pursue her career in academic medicine. She has a record of high impact publications within the field of pediatric kidney transplantation with a primary focus on improving outcomes in pediatric kidney transplant recipients. For her proposed project, she has chosen to assess kidney transplant recipients' risk of rejection based on donor/recipient human leukocyte antigen DR/DQ eplet mismatches. She already has preliminary data on this subject and is the recipient of the young investigator award at the American Transplant Congress for her presentation on HLA-DR/DQ single molecule eplet mismatch and formation of de novo donor-specific anti-HLA antibodies after kidney transplantation in children. In addition to this important research, she has published a manuscript on intra-patient variability of tacrolimus in pediatric and adolescent renal transplant recipients and its association with worse graft outcomes and another on comparing induction therapy after kidney transplantation in children. I firmly believe that Dr. Vaka Sigurjonsdottir is an exceptional candidate for your award. I strongly recommend Dr. Sigurjonsdottir to the the TTS and IPTA Congress Scientific Awards without reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jayanthi Chandar', written in a cursive style.

Jayanthi Chandar, M.D

Medical Director, Pediatric Kidney Transplant, Miami Transplant Institute

Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine