

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

February 7, 20[REDACTED]

Dear Scientific Review Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Dr. [REDACTED] for the Gilead Sciences Research Scholars Program in HIV Award. [REDACTED] joined our faculty January 20[REDACTED] as an Assistant Professor in the Department of [REDACTED], Division of Infectious Diseases. She was the first faculty recruit in the Center for Microbial Pathogenesis led by Dr. [REDACTED]. Our offices and labs are adjacent, and we have had many conversations about science and a research career. I know her well. She has outstanding potential for creative research in HIV-1 biology.

[REDACTED] has an exceptional research background with outstanding training. She has incorporated techniques from diverse fields into her research, including virology, murine genetics, immunology, molecular and cellular biology, and microbiome studies and is already recognized for her contributions to these fields. [REDACTED] has won several awards as well as extramural funding for the quality of her research. Her diverse expertise and commitment to truly interdisciplinary science would make her an excellent representative of your Research Scholars Award program.

[REDACTED] has published extensively in high impact journals including [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]. The major focus of her research has been the genetic and molecular basis for immune responses to retroviral infections ranging from the initial detection of retroviral infection by the innate immune system to the development of antiviral adaptive immune responses. During her postdoctoral training, she discovered that an intrinsic immune effector [REDACTED]. Her ongoing work investigating the relationship between [REDACTED] dramatically expanded our understanding of the nature of cellular heterogeneity in these trafficking pathways and their potential consequences on the outcome of viral infection. I am confident that her future work employing new approaches to investigate these interactions will provide additional exciting insights.

The Department of [REDACTED] are fully committed to Dr. [REDACTED]'s career development. The department has dedicated one bay, one alcove for [REDACTED], and a shared procedure room for equipment and standard tissue culture work, as well as an office for [REDACTED]. The laboratory has the full capacity (including equipment, expertise, and facilities) to conduct the experiments outlined in the proposal. In addition, the lab has access to the imaging equipment of her mentor, Dr. [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has been provided with a competitive startup package and has already obtained additional internal funding from the [REDACTED]. I am committed to protecting junior faculty from major teaching and service activities, particularly in the first few years of their appointment. As such, I confirm that [REDACTED] will have sufficient protected time (at least 75% effort) for research. Any additional effort will be directly related to her career progression as a tenure-track faculty member in the School of Medicine and will include teaching and mentoring graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

As discussed in her mentorship plan developed with Dr. [REDACTED], there are extensive resources available to Dr. [REDACTED] here at [REDACTED]. The facilities, infrastructure, resources, collaborative opportunities, and support for new faculty both within the Department and in the university as a whole are outstanding. [REDACTED] has an extremely collegial and rich research environment. Dr. [REDACTED] has already integrated herself into the larger microbial pathogenesis and immunology community here and will continue to capitalize on the expertise of researchers here whose work can complement and support her own research program.

We are excited to have [REDACTED] as a new member of our faculty and to actively participate in her professional development. She has exceptional potential to succeed as an independent investigator in HIV research. Support through the Gilead Sciences Research Scholars Program in HIV would play a major role in this process.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]