

Date: Jan 4, 2018

RE: Ellen F. Eaton, MD

Dear Members of the Gilead HIV Research Scholars Review Committee:

I am delighted to express our strong commitment to Dr. Eaton's application for the Gilead HIV Research Scholars Award. As an Infectious Diseases fellow here, Ellen distinguished herself as a promising young scientist who is deeply committed to an academic career as an independent investigator. After completing a post-doctoral fellowship and receiving a K12 career development award in 2016, Ellen joined our faculty poised to contribute to the field of HIV health outcomes with use of decision analyses to inform prevention and management of complex comorbidities in HIV.

Ellen's accomplishments are remarkable. During her first year on faculty, she published 5 first author manuscripts, delivered an oral presentation at a national conference, won pilot funds sponsored by the Center for AIDS Research, and submitted her first NIH K23 application to the NIDDK (May, 2017). In addition, she secured the prestigious Omenn Fellowship (2017-2019) sponsored by the National Academy of medicine based on her professional qualifications and accomplishments, scholarly reputation, and relevance of her expertise in health outcomes to the work of the Health and Medicine Division of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine.

I am committed to ensuring that Ellen has excellent institutional support to succeed. I will provide protected time for her research, limiting this to one half day of HIV clinic weekly and 4 weeks of inpatient service annually. She will continue to dedicate 75% of her overall time to research. She receives office and grants management support through the Division of Infectious Diseases and the Research and Informatics Service Center. Her office is located in the same suite as her primary mentor, Dr. Mugavero. She has adequate office space, computer facilities, access to IT support and clinical research expertise in the UAB and the Center for AIDS Research (CFAR). She has access to numerous training and mentorship opportunities through the Department of Medicine, School of Public Health, Division of Infectious Diseases, and Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS). I have provided her with start-up funds (\$20,000 per year for three years) to supplement her research funding as needed. Of note, I have developed a mechanism to provide additional support for successful K-award recipients in which \$300,000 in supplementary funding from the School (50%), Department (25%) and awardee's Division (25%) are provided to help with additional salary coverage and project expenses over the course of the award. Ellen has resubmitted her K23 proposal to NIDDK (Jan, 2018) and, if successful, will very likely receive this supplemental funding to help catalyze and further support her career development. I strongly believe that the support from this Gilead Research Scholarship as well as the institutional support outlined above will position Ellen to successfully compete for future independent funding.

Ellen has assembled an exceptional team of mentors with a strong record of accomplishment in independent funding and mentoring. Dr. Michael Mugavero serves as her primary mentor and has an exceptional record of accomplishment mentoring fellows and junior faculty. Ellen will continue to participate in seminars and lecture series' supported by the CCTS including seminars/workshops on grant writing, research presentations, professional development; Training Interdisciplinary and Emerging Research Scholars (TIERS) workshops; and monthly "Mentoring

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Lunches” where topics salient to both mentors and mentees are discussed with other early stage investigators. She will take several epidemiology courses at the School of Public Health at no cost as a faculty member and will have dedicated time to travel for short courses and conferences. At the completion of this research proposal outlined in this application and training opportunities, Ellen will be well positioned for a successful R01 application.

In summary, I believe Ellen has a bright future as an investigator who uses translational research methods to respond to uncertainty in the treatment of HIV. I am dedicated to ensure that she achieves the highest levels of success as an independent investigator in this critical area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeanne Marrazzo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeanne Marrazzo, MD, MPH, FACP, FIDSA  
Director, Division of Infectious Diseases  
C. Glenn Cobbs, M.D., Endowed Professor in Infectious Diseases  
University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine