



October 30th, 2017

Trevor J. Lujan, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering
Boise State University

Re: Letter of Support for Dr. Gunes Uzer

Dear Gunes,

As we have agreed previously, it would be my pleasure to serve as a mentor on your ITHS research project entitled "Role of MSC Mechanosignaling in Bone Health". After reading your proposal and discussing it with you, I'm very excited to support your goals to advance this project.

Since your arrival to Boise State University, I have enjoyed assisting you on writing pilot proposals to understand MSC mechanosignaling. I feel that formalizing this mentor-mentee relationship will help me to support you fully in your preparation of your R01 application. I have ten years of experience as a principal investigator in musculoskeletal research, and have had success writing extramural research proposals as PI. This has included two NIH R41 grants (PI and Co-I), an NIH R42 grant (PI), an NIH COBRE grant (project investigator), an IGEM award (PI), and recently an NSF CAREER award (PI). These grants have brought 1.9 million in direct costs to my research projects. As you know, I am working on resubmitting a recently scored R01 proposal, of which you serve on as a co-I. I look forward to helping you achieve your goal of getting your first R01 grant using the preliminary data that you acquire from this ITHS project. Not only can I help with the proposal writing, but I feel that our shared interest in musculoskeletal mechanobiology will help me provide feedback on the technical portions of your proposal.

Serving as a mentor is a duty that I genuinely enjoy and take seriously. As a part of the ITHS program, I will plan to meet with you every month to discuss progress, goals and challenges. It would be a pleasure to work closely with you on your quest for R01 funding, as you have impressed me with your exceptional work-ethic and your vision to unwind the complex molecular relationships that govern bone mechanobiology.

I wish you success with your grant application! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need anything further.

Sincerely,

Trevor Lujan

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