

October 30, 2017

RE: Translational Research Scholars Program, ITHS

Dear Translational Research Scholars Program Selection Committee, ITHS

I am writing to express my strong support for Dr. Kimberly McKeirnan for the Translational Research Scholars Program at the ITHS. Despite having not yet received NIH funding, Dr. McKeirnan has an impressive track record of funded research for someone who is still in the early stages of her career, and in light of her appointment being primarily devoted to teaching and clinical instruction. She is currently the Principal Investigator (PI) on more than \$700K of funded research including projects funded by a major pharmaceutical company, a local non-profit, and a national healthcare device corporation. Thus, she is actively involved in research already and has secured funding from a diverse array of sources. She has also participated in the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation Faculty Scholars program so she is aware of the dedication and time commitment required for participation in a program such as the Translational Research Scholars Program. Dr. McKeirnan previously submitted an R15 grant proposal which I believe has the merit to be funded during the next round. However, she would greatly benefit from the tools she will learn through participating in this program as she prepares a revised proposal to be submitted to the NIH within the next year.

I am a Director and Associate Professor of Medicine at the Washington State University (WSU) Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine and Executive Faculty at the Program of Excellence in Addictions Research at WSU. I have secured more than \$23 million in grants and contracts as PI or Co-Investigator from NIH (8 different institutes/centers) and 14 other agencies, and am involved in multiple research projects ranging from basic human toxicology to health economics. I have been part of 17 randomized controlled trials in the last 6 years and was competitively chosen to become an NIH Fellow of the Summer Institute on Randomized Clinical Trials. I have significant clinical research experience having successfully recruited participants for various types of clinical research project. I am also the Site PI for our Pacific Northwest Node of the National Drug Abuse Treatment Clinical Trials Network grant and I am Co-Principal Investigator for an NIH P20 Center of Excellence focused on behavioral health treatment among American Indians. I have published over 60 peer-reviewed research articles in these domains and I am a grant reviewer for the NIH and 5 other sponsors. I have reviewed for more than 25 journals and I am on the Editorial Board of Psychology of Addictive Behaviors, Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology, the American Journal of

Drug and Alcohol Abuse, and Addiction. Lastly, I am dedicated to international research with active collaborations across 7 different countries. In terms of mentorship, I have mentored dozens of graduate students and currently mentor my own Postdoctoral Fellow, and I am on the Postdoctoral Mentorship Team for two others. I enjoy working with junior faculty and assisting them in working towards their research goals whether it be another grant to apply for, or a paper to finalize and submit for publication.

As her primary mentor, I will provide the guidance and support required to help Dr. McKeirnan truly excel in this program and take advantage of this excellent opportunity for growth and development as a researcher. She and I have already collaborated on her NIH R15 proposal and we have begun meeting to discuss her revision as well. In addition, she and I recently collaborated on another R15 submitted with another team. Upon funding, she and I will begin meeting twice per month to discuss her progress and her ongoing research agenda. This will allow us to schedule additional mentorship meetings as necessary, but also to suggest ideas for additional collaboration, new grants that may be a good fit for her skills and interest, and it will also provide an opportunity to brainstorm about other faculty both within WSU and beyond that she may want to connect with in order to further her research agenda.

It is my pleasure to strongly recommend Dr. Kimberly McKeirnan for the Translational Research Scholars Program. I believe she is an excellent fit for the kind of training and resources offered to early stage investigators. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any additional information I can provide about her qualifications for this program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sterling McPherson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sterling" being more prominent than the last name "McPherson".

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