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October 25, 2017

RE: Translational Research Scholars Program application by Nicole Poole, M.D., M.P.H.

Dear Reviewers,

It is a pleasure to write a very strong letter of departmental support and commitment for Dr. Nicole Poole's application for the Institute of Translational Health Sciences (ITHS) Translational Research Scholars Program (TRSP). The Department of Pediatrics is fully committed to her and the success of her career. Dr. Poole was initially recruited in 2014 to complete a subspecialty fellowship in the Division of Infectious Diseases, which has a long history of rigorously training fellows who go on to have successful careers in academic medicine as physician scientists. After the completion of her fellowship, we recruited Dr. Poole to our faculty in July 2017 as a member of our Division of Infectious Diseases at which time she was appointed as an Acting Instructor. We utilize the acting position in our department to allow young investigators in the physician-scientist track more time to initiate and develop their research program before they face the tenure clock. We do not leave individuals on the acting status for more than 2 years and will expect to convert Dr. Poole to an Assistant Professor position in the physician-scientist tenure track during that time frame. Dr. Poole is also a member of the Center for Clinical and Translational Research (CCTR) at the Seattle Children's Research Institute. The CCTR provides infrastructure and support for her research.

Dr. Poole has focused her research on trying to understand how and why antibiotics are overused in children, and is developing an intervention to improve antibiotic prescribing in the outpatient clinic setting. Since her start at Seattle Children's Hospital, Dr. Poole has been the primary investigator of two major research projects. Her first project resulted in three oral abstract presentations at national academic society meetings and one scientific manuscript in press. Her second project was in collaboration with the Office of Antimicrobial Stewardship at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and awarded top abstract from the Pediatric Infectious Disease Society, with a manuscript in preparation.

In June 2017, Dr. Poole was selected for the Clinical Research Scholars Program (CRSP) within the CCTR. This program provides two years of financial support for junior faculty at Seattle Children's Hospital as they develop their research projects and attain additional grant support. While she is a member of the CRSP, Dr. Poole will have at least 50% protected research effort and annual funds for project development, which will provide time to participate in the TRSP. Dr. Poole recently applied for a K08 Mentored Career Development Award in February 2017, and plans to resubmit this application in March 2018. The TRSP will allow her to work on her career development and grant writing skills in preparation for the resubmission of her Career Development Award and future R-series funding. Once her K08 is awarded, she will have at least 75% protected time to dedicate to research.

Dr. Poole's membership in the CCTR provides educational opportunities as well as infrastructure and support for her research. The center is comprised of a diverse group of over 400 research scientists from over 30 subdivisions with a singular purpose: to foster new ideas and optimize clinical research involving children. The Center is a national leader in conducting high impact clinical investigation and therapeutic development, including the development of new clinical outcome measures, study design, bioinformatics tools and statistical methodologies. As a member of the CCTR, Dr. Poole has full access to its facilities

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and core services including administrative and research coordination support. The center provides technical and methodological support, education and training, and collaborative assistance to investigators in the design, conduct, and analysis of clinical research. Investigators at all stages of study design and implementation have access to statisticians and others with expertise in clinical research compliance and methodology. This center is an outstanding environment for Dr. Poole as a junior faculty member. Dr. Poole's primary mentor, Dr. Danielle Zerr, is an outstanding and successful scientist, and has been an esteemed member of our faculty for many years. Dr. Zerr also works through this center, is a full professor, and has established and ongoing funding for her work. She is highly regarded by her colleagues, is an expert epidemiologist, and is influential in using her research to improve the care for the most vulnerable children locally at Seattle Children's as well as nationally.

The Infectious Diseases Division, our Department, and the CCTR are fully committed to the success of Dr. Poole. We recognize the support that junior faculty require for success in a research career and are providing this to Dr. Poole. Dr. Poole has outstanding potential to be a leader in improving antibiotic prescribing and ultimately the health of children; she is an excellent candidate for this award. We will do all we can to ensure her success.

Sincerely,



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