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October 18th 2022

RE: Nawras W. Habash, M.B.B.S

Dear American Society of Transplantation Travel Grant Committee:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this strong letter of recommendation at the request of Dr. Habash in support of his application for the travel grant to attend the educational symposium for trainees interested in transplant medicine.

Dr. Habash completed his medical school education at Mu'tah University Faculty of Medicine in Jordan between 2009 and 2015, then he completed a rotating internship at AL-Karak hospital in Jordan. After that he move to the United States for pediatric residency at Cleveland Clinic Children's hospital, OH between 2017-2020, then joined us at Mayo Clinic Children's center for pediatric gastroenterology and hepatology fellowship in July of 2020. At Mayo clinic our Pediatric Gastroenterology program perform about 10 liver transplants in children and early and our Pediatric Gastroenterology fellows take care of multiple patients with other solid organ transplants like heart transplant, kidney transplant, bone marrow transplant and sometimes combined multi organ transplants. Dr. Habash is currently in his 2nd year of training and will be completing his fellowship training on 06/30/2023.

I met Dr. Habash for the first time when he interviewed at our institution for the pediatric gastroenterology fellowship. I was impressed by his work ethics, dedication, and his scholarly achievement. It was very clear that he knew from that point that he wants to become a Pediatric gastroenterologist especially with his focused research and interest in pediatric hepatology and liver transplant. This was clearly reflected by the work he completed during residency under the mentorship of Dr. Alkhouri to assess hepatic fibrosis in children after liver transplant.

Over the first two years of his fellowship training, I got to work with him closely as a program director and a research mentor. I have been very impressed by his clinical knowledge, scholarly skills, work ethics and his ability to critique and analyze the literature. Despite his busy clinical schedule during the first year of fellowship Dr. Habash was always looking for research and learning opportunities. He worked with me on multiple projects related to the risk of hepatitis B

infection and immunity in children with celiac disease and inflammatory bowel disease. He has already published one manuscript and presented his work at multiple national meetings. Dr. Habash wanted to explore both the clinical and basic science aspects of research during his fellowship time in order to choose the right career path for his future hepatology and liver transplant career. He is currently working at the lab of Dr. Vijay Shah studying the immune microenvironment in patients with Fontan associated liver disease. He is also working on other liver disease related projects including clinical outcome of children with hyperoxaluria undergoing combined kidney and liver transplant. He is also working on multi-center retrospective study under the mentorship of Dr. Patrick Kamath on assessing the outcomes of combined heart/liver transplant vs isolated heart transplant in patients with Fontan associated liver disease. His CV reflect his great scholarly and academic orientation with 5 published peer reviewed manuscripts, 1 book chapter and 8 abstracts.

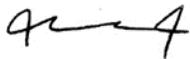
He has been actively involved in the teaching and educations of medical students, pediatric residence, and junior fellows. I have seen him grow to assume a mentoring and guiding role for junior fellows and research trainee in our division and department.

He completed a quality improvement project related to the improving access to pediatric endoscopy and improving the current practice of colonoscopy bowel preparation instructions. His prostate was submitted to the Mayo Clinic Quality Academy and received silver Academy certification on his projects.

Dr. Habash is trusted by faculty and co-fellows in our department, which is reflected clearly in positive evaluation by his peers, staff, and patients. His commitment to his educations is reflected in his high score on in-training exam scores.

Dr. Habash comes with my highest recommendation. I believe that Dr. Habash dedication, intelligence, and clinical/research experience has prepared him to be an excellent pediatric liver transplant specialist. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions

Sincerely,



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