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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

RE: Dr. Nadah Saab

It is a pleasure to write this statement about the significance of Dr. Saab's scientific work in chemical synthesis and the relevance to cardiac imaging.

Dr. Saab received her BSc in chemistry in 1986 and completed her Graduate Education in Medicinal chemistry in 1994 at Wayne State University in Detroit. Since that time she has worked both at Wayne State University and at the University of Tennessee as a Research Associate in Medicinal Chemistry expanding her background in the synthesis and characterization of pharmaceutically-relevant drug molecules. Her prior work to that of going to the University of Alabama was in aldose reductase inhibitors. Dr. Saab has joined the excellent centre for Nuclear Imaging Research at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. At this institution, in association with Dr. Gabriel Elgavish, she has used her extensive background in pharmaceutical synthesis to prepare specialized NMR shift reagents to be used for in vivo characterization of cardiac insufficiency. Although her previous work was in the area of cancer and diabetes, she has already made a significant contribution to the development of such agents. Ischemic heart disease is prevalent throughout the United States and Canada and diagnostic techniques which can differentiate the effects on the myocardium are essential to the continuing attack of the medical research on this problem.

I look forward to Dr. Saab's contributions to the use of sodium NMR for ischemic heart disease. Her association with the University of Alabama has already been a productive one and I will attest to her significant scientific contributions and the importance of this new work to cardiac MRI in the future.

Yours sincerely,

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