

April 26, 1996

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Dr. Nada H. Saab

Dear Sir/Madam

I am pleased to write this statement about the importance of Dr. Nada Saab's scientific work and her international standing. To put my comments in an appropriate perspective, let me first describe my scientific interests. My particular area of research interest at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Medical Center has been for years the application of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectroscopy to the elucidation of the biochemistry of heart function in health and disease.

Last summer Dr. Saab joined my research group at the UAB, and since that time she has undertaken work on a very important scientific problem with considerable medical significance. She has been active in the development of specialized diagnostic agents called NMR shift reagents whose purpose is crucial for the enhancement of the ability of NMR to monitor the biochemical changes in living hearts exposed to stress. Presently available agents have restricted the technique to animal research. Dr. Saab's efforts are leading in the direction of developing such agents with the ability to be used in humans without harmful effects.

Dr. Saab has made progress in this area with astonishing speed. She has already finished the synthesis of her first agent only six months after the start of her project, a feat which typically could take one to two years in the laboratory. This compound is already being tested by her and by coworkers with regard to its NMR effects. I cannot exaggerate the importance of this success, and the interest that researchers active in this field have in this work. I consider Dr. Saab to be first rate in her field.

Sincerely yours,



Gabriel A. Elgavish, PhD

Professor of Medicine and Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

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