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| UCSF_sig_navy_RGB  **Julia Adler-Milstein, PhD**  Professor and Chief  Division of Clinical Informatics and Digital Transformation (DoC-IT)  Department of Medicine  University of California, San  Francisco (UCSF)  docit.ucsf.edu  julia.adler-milstein@ucsf.edu | March 31, 2025  Re: Letter of Support for Dr. Pourian  UCSF Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning Demonstration Projects 2025    Dear Committee:    I am writing to convey my enthusiastic support of Dr. Pourian’s grant application for the AI/ML Demonstration Projects for 2025. Dr. Pourian’s project, “SNAP Into Action: Building an EHR Dashboard to Track Delayed Antibiotic Prescriptions in Pediatric Acute Otitis Media,” proposes to build an Epic-integrated dashboard to support antibiotic stewardship for acute otitis media (AOM) in pediatric patients. Using Versa, UCSF’s PHI-secure large language model (LLM), the tool will identify and classify safety-net antibiotic prescriptions (SNAPs) from provider notes—an area where traditional structured data falls short. The dashboard will allow physicians to visualize how their prescribing practices compare to their clinic and institutional benchmarks, enabling real-time, data-informed quality improvement.  AOM is the most common reason that antibiotics are prescribed for children, despite evidence that over 85% of ear infections improve without treatment. SNAPs are endorsed by both the CDC and AAP as a core antibiotic stewardship strategy, yet little is known about how often they are prescribed—and whether that usage varies across patient demographic or socioeconomic lines. Notably, the first phase of Dr. Pourian’s SNAP Study has already been validated: Versa demonstrated 98% accuracy in identifying SNAPs from physician notes compared to human expert review. These results have been shared at national and institutional venues—including the AMIA Annual Symposium, UCSF Research AI Day, and Health System Improvement Day—and are currently under peer review at JAMIA. Dr. Pourian’s team has already uncovered important disparities in prescribing practices, including lower rates of SNAPs for non-English-speaking families. These findings have initiated active discussions in UCSF’s ambulatory pediatrics and pediatric emergency departments, sparking quality improvement efforts and provider education to promote more equitable care. A live, Epic dashboard will allow for more engagement with providers and may lead to more equitable outcomes for patients.  Dr. Pourian is a Clinical Instructor and Clinical Informatics Fellow in the Department of Pediatrics and Division of Clinical Informatics and Digital Transformation (DoC-IT), and will soon be transitioning to Assistant Professor. Since arriving at UCSF, she has quickly become an active and valued member of our informatics community. She participates regularly in our governance committees, including AC3 and the Pediatrics Informatics Group, and has contributed to system-level projects such as UCSF-wide restraint best practice alert redesign, GPT-powered InBasket tools, and the implementation of Ambience AI Scribe in pediatric emergency care. She is Clarity and Physician Builder certified, collaborates closely with technical and clinician-coder teams, and is actively involved in education-focused QI initiatives with the pediatric residency program. She has been a standout fellow, a leader in many domains, and incredibly productive. As one example of how Dr. Pourian has distinguished herself during the fellowship, she organized a novel and timely national meeting to address the topic of informatics and policy strategies to protect sensitive health data (e.g., reproductive healthcare). The meeting attracted the head of the Office of Civil Rights at HHS and many other leaders in the field. I was incredibly impressed by Dr. Pourian’s vision, organization, and motivation to make an impact.  Dr. Pourian brings substantial experience in clinical informatics and pediatrics to this project, making her well-suited to implement this study in the designated time period. This project will serve as a productive vehicle that will enable her to secure subsequent, large-scale funding for additional exploration of this area and will further establish her research and operational quality improvement programs on pediatric clinical informatics and antibiotic stewardship. This award would provide the dedicated support Dr. Pourian needs to implement and evaluate this AI-driven intervention in clinical workflows, laying the foundation for future large-scale projects and potential extramural funding.  I will ensure that Dr. Pourian will continue to receive the technological, intellectual, and resource support necessary for the successful completion of her work through the Division of Clinical Informatics and Digital Transformation. Dr. Valerie Flaherman, professor of pediatrics, has agreed to serve as her pediatrics mentor on the project. Dr. Flaherman has an excellent track record as a mentor, including her receipt of the Dean’s Short-Term Mentor Award. She has mentored a number of pre- and post-doctoral trainees from a variety of disciplines including pediatrics, neonatology, biology and nutrition. Dr. Raman Khanna, Professor of Medicine, will serve as a clinical informatics mentor on this project. Dr. Khanna is the Program Director of the UCSF Clinical Informatics Fellowship. He is a seasoned informaticist deeply engaged in operational initiatives at UCSF, including the development and implementation of best practice alerts, order sets, and clinical dashboards. His experience bridging technical innovation with clinical impact will be an invaluable asset to the success of this project.  Both her project and the leadership skills she will bring make Dr. Pourian an ideal candidate for this award. She has an optimal mentorship team supporting her and I will provide any needed additional support. Do not hesitate to contact me for any further information in support of her application.    Sincerely,  A black line on a white background  Description automatically generated  **Julia Adler-Milstein, PhD**  Professor and Chief  Division of Clinical Informatics and Digital Transformation (DoC-IT)  Department of Medicine  University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)  docit.ucsf.edu  julia.adler-milstein@ucsf.edu |