UCSF Health
Center for Nursing
Excellence & Innovation

The Innovation Center
2001 The Embarcadero, 1st Floor
San Francisco, CA 94143

April 4, 2025

RE: Letter of Support for "AI Falls Prevention Tool" as a UCSF Health AI/ML Demonstration Project

Dear UCSF AI/ML Learning Demonstration Project Review Committee,

On behalf of the Department of Nursing at UCSF Health and UCSF School of Nursing, we write to express our enthusiastic and unanimous support for the proposed project "AI Falls Prevention Tool" submitted to the UCSF Health AI/ML Demonstration Projects Program. This initiative represents a critical opportunity to advance fall prevention at UCSF Health and elevate the role of nursing in advancing cutting-edge research.

Falls on inpatient adult units remain a top safety concern for nurses and a key quality metric across our system. They significantly impact patient outcomes, including increased length of stay, injuries, and loss of mobility, as well as financial performance through penalties and costs associated with fall-related harm. While we have an existing fall prevention program, there is wide variability in fall rates across our adult inpatient units. As UCSF continues to grow —through partnerships with St. Mary's and St. Francis — the need for standardized, scalable tools becomes more essential. This proposal addresses that gap with an innovative, systemwide approach.

Additionally, nursing documentation of falls and prevention strategies in the care plan takes a considerable amount of time. Extensive and potentially duplicative documentation contributes to EHR-related burnout, which can be ameliorated with AI. This project can serve as an exemplar of how to streamline and improve nursing documentation workflows, making them more efficient and less burdensome for frontline staff.

We are especially excited about the strong nursing leadership at the heart of this project. Dr. Maria Yefimova and Dr. Sasha Binford bring deep expertise to this work. Dr. Yefimova, our lead nurse scientist, has a strong background in implementation science, while Dr. Binford brings extensive operational experience and longstanding leadership in fall prevention. We fully endorse and support protected time for them to lead this initiative, with the backing of their direct supervisors: Dr. Adam Cooper for Dr. Yefimova, and Meghan Sweiss for Dr. Binford.

We are also pleased that the interprofessional UCSF Falls Committee will be directly involved in the development and implementation of the intervention. We are excited that unit-based clinical nurses who are Falls Champions will serve as co-designers. This allows them to contribute meaningfully to system-level changes and impactful research. Nursing Informatics, whose collaboration has been instrumental in prior fall prevention efforts, will continue to play a key role.

We are glad that UCSF leadership will contribute technical support to its success through the Health AI team because this investment will have direct operational

impact. We believe it has the potential to position UCSF Nursing at the forefront of national innovation in patient safety and AI. Importantly, it empowers nurses to co-create solutions, aligned with our values of shared governance and frontline engagement.

The UCSF School of Nursing is also excited to support this project as it aligns with our growing focus on AI in healthcare. This initiative strengthens the academic-practice partnership. We are confident that Dr. Yefimova and Mr. Binford will bring valuable insights about AI in nursing back to the School. Additionally, this project presents a unique opportunity for doctoral students to engage in applied, cutting-edge research that bridges clinical practice and technology. It will help prepare the next generation of nurse leaders and scientists to operate effectively in a data-driven healthcare environment, enhancing the School's educational and research priorities.

This proposal represents the kind of bold, collaborative work that reflects the best of UCSF. We wholeheartedly support this project and urge its full consideration.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

Madelyn Pearson   4/2/2025

85401A1217A9482...

Maddy Pearson DNP, RN, NEA-BC
Chief Nursing Executive and Vice President for Patient Care Services
UCSF Health
Clinical Professor, Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs
UCSF School of Nursing

DocuSigned by:

Arthur Dominguez Jr   4/3/2025

C968D46D70304ED...

Arthur Dominguez Jr., DNP, MSN, RN
Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer
UCSF Medical Center Adult Services
Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Community Health Systems
UCSF School of Nursing

DocuSigned by:

kay Burke   4/2/2025

9FA790D12C844AD...

Kay Burke, MBA, BSN, RN, NE-BC
VP, Chief Nursing Informatics Officer
UCSF Health IT
Clinical Associate
UCSF School of Nursing

DocuSigned by:

Adam Cooper   4/2/2025

5AD90AE7CF58480...

Adam Cooper, DNP, RN, NPD-BC, EBP-C
Supervisor for Maria Yefimova
Director of Nursing Continuous Improvement

Interim Director, Nursing Research
UCSF Health
Health Leadership Associate, Department of Physiological Nursing
UCSF School of Nursing

DocuSigned by:

Meghan Sweis   4/2/2025
17BDB2F6973E47A...

Meghan Sweis, MSN, RN, CNL, CPHQ
Supervisor for Sasha Binford
Director of Nursing Quality and Analytics
UCSF Health
Health Leadership Associate, Department of Physiological Nursing
UCSF School of Nursing

DocuSigned by:

Melissa Lee   4/3/2025
24CAECB7CCBA405...

Melissa Lee MS, RN, PCCN, GCNS-BC, NEA-BC
Chair of Falls Committee
Interim Director of Clinical Practice
UCSF Health
Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Physiological Nursing
UCSF School of Nursing

DocuSigned by:

Abbey Alkon   4/2/2025
F1FE3BB50A7041E...

Abbey Alkon, PhD RN
Interim Associate Dean, SON Office of Research
Professor, Barbara Durand Presidential Chair in Nursing
UCSF School of Nursing