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Dear Selection Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write to express my strong support for the proposal submitted by the team led by Dr. Nicole Jiam, MD and Dr. Song Cheng, MD for the UCSF AI/ML Demonstration Project 2025, titled "AI Automated Audiogram Interpretation and CI Referral. As the Chief of Audiology and the Program Director of Audiology at UCSF Health, I oversee 30 audiologists across 10 clinical sites. Our team sees over 20,000 patients each year across our adult and pediatric sites.

This project addresses a critical clinical need within our healthcare system: the underutilization of cochlear implants (CIs) in patients who would significantly benefit from them. As the proposal effectively outlines, despite the proven benefits of CIs in improving speech recognition and quality of life, a substantial disparity exists in identifying and referring eligible patients. The innovative use of AI to automate the interpretation of audiometric data within the EPIC system has the potential to transform how we identify CI candidates.

I am particularly impressed with the project's focus on several key areas:

•**Improving Access to Care:** By developing an AI tool that can flag potential CI candidates for primary care providers, audiologists, and otolaryngologists, this project will directly address the current challenges of under-referral and geographic disparities.
•**Enhancing Clinical Workflow:** The integration of the AI tool within the EPIC EHR system will streamline the referral process, providing clinicians with actionable insights at the point of care. The emphasis on clear, interpretable recommendations and data visualization is crucial for adoption and effective use.
•**Promoting Patient Empowerment:** The potential for the tool to provide patients with timely information and education about CI candidacy is commendable. This will empower patients to be active participants in their healthcare decisions.
•**Rigorous Evaluation:** The proposal's comprehensive plan for measuring success, including both quantitative and qualitative metrics, demonstrates a commitment to ensuring the project's impact and sustainability.
The team possesses the expertise and dedication necessary to successfully execute this project. Their understanding of the clinical challenges, coupled with their innovative approach to leveraging AI, makes this a highly promising endeavor.

I strongly believe that this project aligns perfectly with the goals of the UCSF AI/ML Demonstration Project 2025 and the UCSF Audiology Clinic. It has the potential to significantly improve patient care, enhance clinical efficiency, and advance the use of AI in healthcare. I wholeheartedly recommend this proposal for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rebecca M. Lewis

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