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We are writing jointly as the Medical Director of Liver Transplantation and the Director of Advancing Research in Clinical Hepatology (ARCH) to express our unequivocal support for the proposed project aimed at providing culturally appropriate, evidence-based nutritional guidance to patients with liver diseases and cirrhosis. This initiative, which harnesses a Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) Large Language Model (LLM) agent to deliver personalized recommendations, has the potential to fill a critical gap in the care of individuals with complex nutritional needs.

Patients with cirrhosis and those on the transplant list often face unique dietary challenges tied to disease progression, medication regimens, and ongoing treatments. At the same time, ensuring nutrition guidance is culturally appropriate is indispensable for patient adherence and satisfaction. By integrating patient-specific data through the electronic health record along with reputable clinical nutrition guidelines and culturally tailored dietary information, this solution specifically has the potential to:

- **Improved Adherence and Outcomes:** Leveraging culturally relevant food options encourages patients to follow recommended dietary plans, which can help stabilize or mitigate cirrhosis-related complications.
- **Enhanced Patient-Centered Care:** Personalized nutritional strategies build trust and rapport between clinicians and patients, ultimately improving the patient experience.
- **Streamlined Clinical Workflow:** Delivering these recommendations directly through the electronic health record (EHR) spares busy providers from manual reference to multiple sources and enables real-time decision-making.

From our perspectives in liver transplantation and hepatology research, we recognize that proper nutrition can delay disease progression, reduce hospitalization rates, and support candidacy and post-transplant recovery. The proposed tool's ability to standardize and elevate nutritional care through a culturally conscious lens could be transformative, especially in diverse populations.

In addition, Dr. Lai, a physician nutrition specialist and the Director of ARCH, our hepatology research wing, will serve on the project team to facilitate the development of this tool, support clinical validation studies, and engage in continuous process improvement. We are confident that this initiative aligns closely with our broader mission to improve the quality and equity of care for all patients with advanced liver disease.

Thank you for your attention to this important proposal. We look forward to its successful implementation and the far-reaching benefits it can bring to our patient community.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Francis Yao

3/31/2025

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