

April 5, 2025

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strongest support for the innovative AI/ML Demonstration project proposal led by Dr. Lakshmi Subbaraj and Dr. Jin Ge. This proposal presents an AI-augmented solution to address a critical pre-procedural clinical need – reducing the administrative burden and enhancing the efficiency of triaging patients referred directly for endoscopy procedures for appropriate procedure type, location, and sedation type.


In my role as Medical Director of Ambulatory Gastroenterology Clinical Services, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges associated with manually reviewing up to 150 direct endoscopy referrals weekly. This process diverts valuable time away from patient care, leads to physician burnout, and is poised to become even more burdensome as UCSF Health continues to expand its outpatient services to additional locations (each of which will have different criteria for medical complexity of the patients that can be safely and appropriately served there). The proposed AI tool, while initially tailored for gastroenterology, has clear potential for broader application across peri-operative settings within our health system.

The team has already built a strong group of key stakeholders invested in the design of this AI tool, including faculty gastroenterologists, anesthesiology colleagues, and the AI Tiger team. I am confident in their ability to rigorously test this tool to confirm accuracy, prioritize patient safety, and ensure seamless integration within existing workflows. This tool has the potential to reduce physician burnout, improve the throughput of successful procedure completion, and adapt quickly as procedure locations expand and diversify as the UCSF Health network grows. The possibility for adaption of this tool to be used in other peri-operative services such as cardiology, pulmonology, interventional radiology, and surgery underscores the economic and systemic value of this tool for our health system.

I am confident that under Dr. Subbaraj and Dr. Ge's guidance, this project will significantly reduce administrative workload, decrease physician burnout, and improve patient care. Moreover, its adaptability to other specialties further enhances its value to our health system.

I offer my highest recommendation and full support for this proposal and look forward to the positive impact on our patients and providers.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

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Kendall Beck, MD

Associate Clinical Professor

Medical Director, Ambulatory Gastroenterology

UCSF Division of Gastroenterology