UCSF

University of California
San Francisco

**Obstetrics, Gynecology &
Gynecologic Subspecialties**

Robyn Lamar, MD, MPH
Associate Professor

2356 Sutter Street ste J140
San Francisco, CA 94115
Tel: 415-353-3400
Fax: 415-353-9509
Robyn.Lamar@ucsf.edu

April 14, 2025

RE: Letter of support for AI pilot proposal

To Whom It May Concern,

As acting Chief of the Division of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Gynecologic Subspecialties at UCSF Health, I am writing to enthusiastically support the proposal submitted by Dr. Ammar Joudeh to develop an Apex-integrated AI chatbot to improve treatment options counseling in obstetrical and gynecologic care. Patient-centered counseling, helping patients make sound decisions based on their values and preferences, is essential to the work we do as Obstetrician/Gynecologists. This tool has immense potential to augment the quality of counseling we provide to patients with diverse reading levels, language proficiencies, values, and preferences. Retrieval-augmented generation from patient data, provider notes, and up-to-date literature will allow it to scale to a wide variety of clinical scenarios and evolve rapidly as evidence and guidelines change. These capabilities would be unprecedented in a counseling tool and would allow our division and other groups of providers who may utilize it in the future to provide much higher-quality counseling given the time constraints of clinical medicine. This could improve patient satisfaction, equitable access, and quality of care.

Dr. Joudeh, as a clinician with operational research, quality improvement, and global health experience whose practice encompasses the breadth of obstetrics and gynecology, is well-positioned in our division to devote his time and clinical expertise to lead this project. He has been recognized for his commitment to patient-centered counseling throughout his career and clearly has the subject-matter expertise to pursue this project. Dr. Joudeh has a track record of managing complex operational research and quality improvement initiatives in settings as diverse as rural Zambian health centers, Indian public schools, and California labor and delivery wards. I am confident he will be an exceptional collaborator with the Health AI team in building this tool and evaluating it in our clinical setting.

Dr. Joudeh will be mentored by Dr. Miriam Kuppermann, a recognized expert in developing and evaluating informed decision-making support tools. Dr. Kuppermann has led numerous intervention studies aimed at improving informed decision-making in obstetrics and gynecology among racially, ethnically, and socioeconomically diverse populations of patients. In her own research, she has recognized the limitations of existing patient-facing decision support tools and the difficulty of designing a tool that can cater to the breadth of patient values, preferences, languages, and literacy levels while evolving with changing guidelines. The flexibility and adaptability that AI will provide this tool is a game-changer, and Dr. Kuppermann's expertise in decision-support interventions will be invaluable for both the design and evaluation of this tool.

Patients are already turning to large language models for guidance on their medical problems, with unknown consequences for decision quality and adherence to recommended interventions.

An AI chatbot that is integrated with the medical record and fine-tuned on vetted literature will empower diverse patients to seek accurate information on their own terms, while their human provider critically remains in the loop, ensuring safe medical decision-making. Our division wholeheartedly supports Dr. Joudeh in this endeavor.

DocuSigned by:

Robyn Lamar

73799EB616914D5...

Sincerely,

Dr. Robyn Lamar, MD, MPH
Medical Director, Gynecology--Mt. Zion, BOPC, San Mateo, CPO
University of California, San Francisco
Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences
Pronouns: she/her/hers