



Institute for Brain Aging and Dementia
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June 5, 2000

RE: Dr. Michael Ibrahim

To Whom It May Concern:

Dr. Michael Ibrahim requested that I provide you with a letter of reference, and I am happy to do so. Michael held a position as a post-doctoral fellow in the Institute from 1996 through June of 1998, during which time I came to know him quite well and observe his research strengths and career potential.

Dr. Ibrahim's training and expertise is in pharmacokinetic modeling and in mathematical and physical applications of MRI imaging. Dr. Ibrahim has studied the transport of contrast agents into human and animal tissues and organs in-vivo. At UCI he examined the kinetics of transport from blood to CSF. The resulting paper was accepted in a highly respected journal and has been well received in the field. Michael added a valuable dimension to the research at our Institute. Michael's on-site presence provided other young investigators, post-docs and graduate students at our Institute with the opportunity to view relevant research questions from a new perspective. In fact, Michael can be credited with stimulating ventures down new avenues of research for many of our research team. For example, he generated an excellent modeling study on the rate of change in the elderly and the risk of Alzheimer's disease.

With regard to Dr. Ibrahim's strengths as a researcher, I was greatly impressed with his ability and commitment to pursue, and quickly grasp, penetrating, complex issues in Alzheimer's disease and brain aging, areas in which he had no prior experience. Dr. Ibrahim was diligent in seeking out and mastering information relevant to not only the imaging aspects of AD, but to learning as much as possible about the molecular and biochemical mechanisms involved in its progression. It is this very attitude towards intellectual knowledge and his demonstrated level of commitment that earned Dr. Ibrahim one of the very few positions available on the Institute's highly competitive NIA sponsored training program. He is extremely bright, well read, and highly motivated. Dr. Ibrahim also was active in teaching students at UCI. He is an excellent lecturer and is able to present complex quantitative work with great clarity. He takes the task very serious and enjoys teaching. I believe he would be an asset to any teaching program.

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At a personnel level, he is very friendly and yet professional. He was well liked by students and I personally always enjoyed my interactions with him.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carl Cotman".

Carl W. Cotman, Ph.D.
Director, Institute for Brain Aging and Dementia

CWC:ap