



Institute for Brain Aging and Dementia

Irvine, CA 92697-4540
(949) 824-5847
FAX (949) 824-2071

March 31, 2000

Re: Dr. Michael Ibrahim

It is a pleasure to give this letter of support for Dr. Michael Ibrahim in his application for an academic position. As an Associate Professor in the Department of Neurology and Institute for Brain Aging and Dementia at the University of California, Irvine (UCI) I have worked with Michael on MRI projects from 1996 to 1998. We have a very active program in aging and dementia where Michael has been a contributor in our magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) studies, and theoretical aspects of the neuropathology that develops during the course of Alzheimer's Disease. Through these activities at UCI, I have become well acquainted with Dr. Ibrahim and have had the opportunity to discuss his work in detail.

Dr. Ibrahim has proven to be a good scientist with significant facility with MRI, and the ability to quickly comprehend the critical components of the studies that are being developed. In his initial work at UCI he was examining MRI relaxation times and Gd-DTPA relaxivity in CSF to support earlier studies that examine blood flow and perfusion in the aging and demented brain. These studies are interesting in that they indicate there may be early changes in brain fluid dynamics and plasticity that precede the development of dementia. The second project involves the mathematical modeling of changes in brain pathology during the development of Alzheimer's Disease. Both lines of investigation require considerable technical skill and a solid understanding of the problems addressed. In these projects Michael has worked well with colleagues and exerted considerable effort.

While working with Dr. Ibrahim it has become evident that he is capable and motivated in his endeavors. He has proven to be reliable, precise, energetic and creative in his work, qualities necessary for a good researcher. On a personal level it is clear that Michael is a fine person with integrity, respected and liked by his peers. The skills, dedication and personal characteristics of Dr. Ibrahim would be an asset to any research program. It is a pleasure to work with Michael and he is a very good candidate for any position for which he may apply.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Patrick Kesslak".

J. Patrick Kesslak, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Neurology
Institute for Brain Aging