



April 19, 2011

Mary Beth Cishek, M.D.  
Seton Heart Institute  
Medical Park Tower  
1301 W. 38th St., Suite 705  
Austin, TX 78705

Dear Dr. Cishek:

It is with earnest enthusiasm and through a close professional relationship that I am able to give strong support towards Dr. Tushar Shah's application to join Seton Heart Institute as a heart failure/transplant cardiologist. I have worked closely with Dr. Shah throughout the last five years while he was practicing as a community-based cardiologist in Dayton, Ohio. Our program quickly realized his passionate approach towards patient care, his academic aptitude, and his long-standing commitment to the field of heart failure. It is for this reason that he was invited to join our faculty four years ago as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine within the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine at Ohio State University Medical Center. It is rare that we grant this title to practicing physicians outside of our institution.

What sets Dr. Shah apart from other physicians is his unwavering commitment to being an advocate for his patients. His medical judgment in handling fairly complex patients testifies to the balanced nature in which he is able to apply medical knowledge to solve clinical scenarios in which clear-cut answers rarely exist. His calm personality helps his patients weather the tumultuous nature of the life-threatening illnesses they may be facing. Patients that are sent to Ohio State University Medical Center often consider him to be a member of their family rather than merely being their physician.

His community peers look to him as a resource in the management of complex advanced heart failure patients they may be co-managing. It is only his more challenging patients that we are referred. His patient workups are impeccable and thoughtful. The depth of his fund of knowledge was demonstrated during his successful passing of the recent American Board of Internal Medicine certifying examination in Advanced Heart Failure and Cardiac Transplantation. We are comfortable transitioning his patients back to his care once we have stabilized their acute issues. We will miss his collegiality when he becomes more distanced from us geographically. The program he will be joining will be receiving one of our more valued colleagues.

Dr. Shah was recruited by his current group due to his expertise in advanced cardiovascular imaging. He is fellowship-trained in cardiovascular computed tomography and cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging. Changes in health care economics have not allowed him to develop the outpatient imaging center that he was recruited to specifically create by the group he joined. He has continued to patiently develop cardiovascular imaging at Kettering Medical Center. It is only recently that he was able to overcome the politics often seen at institutions in which radiology programs wield their autocratic power. He is currently serving as the Director of Cardiovascular Imaging for Kettering Health Network. He has also championed the development of a coordinated heart failure management program, pulmonary hypertension clinic, and mechanical circulatory support program at his institution. He was instrumental in forming a community-based

cardiovascular fellowship training program and serves as its Assistant Program Director. His fellows admire him as a mentor. He is proud to graduate his first class of fellows this summer. The lack of administrative support and the political nature of a multi-group practice setting thwarts his energetic and industrious efforts and compels him to seek other opportunities. He was recruited by The Cleveland Clinic to join their Section of Clinical Cardiology at their main campus. However, events in his personal life cause him to return to Texas to be closer to his family and support system.

My colleagues and I wish him well in his future endeavors and anticipate his continued success in all that he strives to achieve. If necessary, I can be reached through my cell phone at 614-203-1733 for further discussion regarding his candidacy.

Sincerely,

Chittoor Bhaskar Sai-Sudhakar, MBBS, FACS, FRCS  
Assistant Professor of Surgery  
Director of Mechanical Circulatory Support  
Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery  
Ohio State University Medical Center