

COMPLETE CARDIOVASCULAR CARE

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To Whom It May Concern:

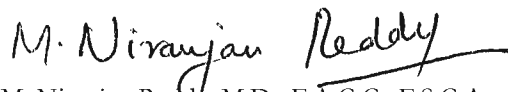
It is a privilege for me to write a letter of support for Dr. Tushar N. Shah. I am proud to have been his partner in clinical practice and we continue to feel his absence from our group.

Dr. Shah was recruited in 2005 due to his strong interest in heart failure and cardiovascular imaging. My colleagues and I routinely referred our more complex patients to him for advanced therapies. His evaluations were notably comprehensive and trusted by regional referral centers. In recognition of his expertise, faculty at Ohio State Medical Center and The Cleveland Clinic sponsored his candidacy for board certification in advanced heart failure and transplant cardiology. Additionally, without solicitation, Dr. Shah was personally invited by Dr. William Abraham to join the faculty of Ohio State as an Adjunct Clinical Professor of Medicine in his division. Dr. Abraham is considered a world authority in heart failure and his endorsement should not be taken lightly. He is an exceptional physician who balances his acumen with a disarming and humble demeanor.

Dr. Shah was dedicated to quality initiatives throughout his time in our group and served on our leadership board for four years. He is one of several leaders instrumental in our group's national recognition in cardiovascular outcomes and disease management. He pushed all of us to be more forward thinking. I personally credit him for urging me to develop skills in PFO closure, structural heart disease, and management of chronic total occlusions. His passion for noninvasive imaging significantly improved the quality and efficiency of our program. He was instrumental in the formation of our cardiology fellowship and served as its assistant program director. Cardiology fellows he trained all successfully passed the echo and nuclear boards.

Recognizing the needs of our local community, our group wished to support Dr. Shah's desire to develop programs in advanced heart failure and cardiovascular MRI. Competitive interests amongst our six cardiology groups and the lack of surgical support interfered with the development of a comprehensive heart failure program. Radiology contracts limited the development of cardiovascular imaging by cardiology. Additionally, changes in healthcare reimbursement challenged our initial enthusiasm to open a private outpatient imaging center. Such programs remain much needed by our community. Despite the challenges faced by Dr. Shah, he remained dedicated to quality initiatives in heart failure and helped develop programs for heart failure education, ultrafiltration, limited mechanical support, and cardiopulmonary stress testing.

Dr. Shah engenders the key traits of selflessness, diligence, and congeniality. He has been a personal friend as well as a professional colleague. I wish him all the success in his endeavors and admire his dedication and passion. I can be reached at (937) 416-7251 for further discussion if necessary.



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