



*The DIVISION of CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE*

February 18, 2016

**Re: Letter of recommendation for Tushar Shah, M.D**

Dear Sirs:

It is a privilege for me to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Tushar Shah, MD. I consider him to be an exceptional physician and enthusiastically support his candidacy as a heart failure and transplant cardiologist.

I have known Dr. Shah for 10 years. He was my attending during my internal medicine residency training, a consultant to me during my practice as a hospitalist. He also served as my assistant program director during my cardiovascular medicine fellowship training. Besides being a research advisor to me as a young investigator, Dr Shah was also a role model who inspired me to seek additional training in advanced heart failure and transplant cardiology. I feel I am uniquely qualified to attest to his intellectual curiosity, ethical character, compassion, work ethic, and acumen.

Dr. Shah has a fervent intellectual curiosity that is so essential in a field such as advanced heart failure and transplant cardiology. His knowledge base is broad and cutting edge. He is exceptionally intelligent as can be gleaned from his numerous accolades. In college he completed course work for his undergraduate major in biochemistry within two years and worked in a molecular biology research lab. He went to medical school on a full scholarship and dedicated an extra year of research in advanced computer graphics to develop tools to deliver therapy within a virtual reality environment. He graduated from medical school with highest honors. Even though he is gifted with a rare intellect, Dr Shah has a collegial and an unassuming disposition. Despite the demands of a busy private clinical practice, he continued to maintain an interest in clinical research through independent studies, industry-sponsored trials, and through a local research center where he continues to serve as an investigator. He has expressed his fervent desire to focus the remainder of his career in this field. I have no doubt that he will make unique contributions.

Dr Shah has admirable strong moral and ethical convictions. After rapidly building a successful practice in Austin, Texas, he was recognized for his exceptional care by both his patients and peers when The American Heart Association named him Cardiovascular Provider of the Year for Central Texas in 2004. His colleagues subsequently offered him an early lucrative partnership. However, he left the practice on ethical principles when he discovered his colleagues' involvement in churning practices. A few years after his departure from the group, the Texas Medical Board and the local press independently made public what Dr. Shah had discovered much earlier. Working alongside Dr. Shah through the years I have firsthand knowledge of his strong moral character and ethical judgment.

It is my belief that being an excellent physician requires not only a mastery of the science of medicine but also its compassionate application to the unique context of each patient's illness. This is especially true in patients with chronic heart failure who require advanced therapies. Patients, nurses, trainees, and colleagues who are fortunate to work with Dr. Shah recognize these characteristics easily in him. During my cardiology fellowship I was caring for a relatively young patient with incessant ventricular tachycardia and recurrent ICD shocks. His attending cardiologist had consulted an electrophysiologist in Dr. Shah's group. Dr. Shah was in the doctor's lounge post-call having coffee with us as I discussed the patient's case with the electrophysiologist. The patient was not expected to survive. Dr. Shah suggested we consider emergency implantation of an LVAD to

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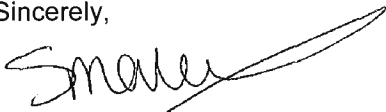
quell the electrical storm the patient was experiencing. After obtaining the approval of the patient's principal cardiologist, Dr. Shah arranged for a surgeon to implant an Abiomed BVS 5000 and used his expertise to stabilize the patient over a weekend he was not on call. Truthfully most physicians would not have become involved. The patient survived and was eventually discharged home to his wife and two young children. Although the local newspaper article credited the surgeon and the patient's principal cardiologist for saving his life, those directly involved in the care of the patient know who the true hero was.

Dr. Shah is a tireless physician. During the time that I have known him in Dayton, Ohio he wore many hats. He was instrumental in forming the cardiovascular medicine fellowship program at our community-based hospital. He served as the assistant program director of the program while maintaining his full-time independent private practice. He was on the board of directors for his large multispecialty group practice as well as the Dayton chapter of the American Heart Association. He served on the quality review committee for the hospital and was also the director of cardiovascular imaging for our hospital system. He was the local principal investigator for several clinical trials at our facility and maintained an adjunct faculty position at The Ohio State University Medical Center. He was a key mentor for me personally as well as other trainees in both the cardiovascular medicine and internal medicine training programs. He is usually one of the first physicians to arrive at the hospital and personally rounds on his advanced heart failure patient's on the weekend even if he is not on call. In addition to his professional dedication as a physician he is a devoted father to four beautiful children and cares for both his elderly mother-in-law and his father.

As a trainee under his charge and as his colleague, he stimulates those around him to be lifelong learners through his own example. During the second year of his cardiology fellowship he became board certified in adult echocardiography and also served as chief fellow for two years in his own training program. He trained in nuclear cardiology and became proficient in cardiac PET imaging through resources outside of his own fellowship training program. He gained proficiency in cardiovascular CT through extracurricular reading on an electron beam CT scanner prior to the development of multislice technology. He completed a fellowship in advanced cardiovascular imaging while in private practice. His local colleagues as well as his peers at The Ohio State University Medical Center recognize his expertise in heart failure. He successfully passed the inaugural ABIM board examination in advanced heart failure and transplant cardiology. To revitalize his skills in mechanical support and transplant immunology he is now completing an advanced heart failure fellowship at The University of Kentucky. During his tenure as our assistant program director all of the cardiology fellows in our program successfully passed the echocardiography boards and nuclear medicine boards under his guidance. He supplemented rounds and our weekly cardiology textbook seminar with contemporary literature from his own library of articles stored on his laptop that he keeps close at hand.

Dr. Shah's amalgamation of skills comes packaged in a witty, friendly, and sincerely caring human being. He is personable, sensitive, flexible, respected, and admired by patients, peers, subordinates, and superiors alike. He shines with humility that belies his intellectual brilliance. I am deeply impressed by Dr. Shah and recommend him without reservation. I am confident that he will make significant contributions not only to his patients but also to the field cardiac transplantation and advanced heart failure management.

Sincerely,



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