Sanders-Brown Center on Aging

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Dear Austin:
I am pleased to confirm my support for you and your F31 pre-doctoral fellowship proposal titled: "*Contribution of Titin-Truncating Variants to Human Non-Ischemic Cardiomyopathy*". I have worked as a translational bioinformatician and omics expert for two decades, providing invaluable expertise in the links between genomic variants and human pathology.

Your proposal sounded very interesting during our previous meetings about your lab's sequencing data. Your aims span potential aberrations at each level of the central dogma, which has been a crucial focus of my professional journey. The novelty of your hypothesis—titin-truncating variants overloading cellular turnover mechanisms—makes any findings from this proposal extremely beneficial to the fields of science and medicine. Moreover, the utilization of human tissue and large sample sizes significantly strengthens the translation of your proposal.

Again, I am delighted to assist you with this project and are always welcome to meet with me whenever needed. More specifically, I have helped you with handling and analyzing your DNA and RNA sequencing datasets, along with building the sample size of patients with titin-truncating variants to 24 by introducing deep-learning tools like SpliceAI. I would be more than willing to help you develop skills to use additional variant prediction tools and discuss interpretation of multi-omic findings.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 859.218.0125 or mark.ebbert@uky.edu.

Sincerely,

Mark T. W. Ebbert, Ph.D.
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