**Letter of Motivation**

**Student: Eran Shorer**

**Student Number: SHRERA001**

BSc (Med)Hons. Neurophysiology (first class)

MBChB 6th year student

Herein I motivate to pursue an MSc in Neuroscience concurrently with my MBChB 6th year.

MSc Project: Brain Physics

MSc Supervisor: Prof. Anthony Figaji (Head of Paediatric Neurosurgery and Chair of Clinical Neurosciences, Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital)

**To whom it may concern,**

Thank you for considering my application to begin an MSc project during my 6th year MBChB. The MSc project I have been accepted into entails analysing information from sensors in the brains of children post-neurosurgery to ensure they have the optimal management for their unique injuries. Such management will ideally reduce the degree of brain damage that these children suffer.

The MSc project would initially entail data cleaning and computational work which is not intensive and can be done in my spare time at home. I would like to begin this early phase of research during 6th year. I will then delay my medical internship to continue to the more intensive phase of the MSc in 2021 and beyond.

I believe I will be able to accomplish this less intensive phase during my 6th year of MBChB for the following reasons:

1. During the MBChB 6th year program there are 6 weeks of elective time scheduled. Thankfully I have already completed this work in prior vacation time. This means that I would have 8-9 weeks, including the June Holiday, which I would otherwise have free (20% of the year). I would like to take the opportunity to use this 20% towards making progress on the MSc which would furthermore reduce pressure to do research work during my clinical rotations.
2. I have a proven track record of balancing my MBChB with extra-curricular activities.  I won the medal for the highest grade achieved in Molecular Medicine course which I pursued concurrently with my 3rd year MBChB. During my clinical MBChB time I have also concurrently completed multiple online courses which have also aided my research career and have given me confidence to balance an MBChB with my other career aspirations whilst still holding a first-class GPA. During my MBChB time I completed an intercalated BSc (Med) Hons degree in Neurophysiology and received the class medal for this degree. My commitment to academics reflects my aspiration to be a successful clinician-scientist.
3. I have considered pursuing the MSc after 6th year however I would need to then delay my medical internship for longer than is allowed. Moreover, the selection for the project is highly competitive and is due to begin in 2020; should I not commit to starting it in 2020 I would likely miss out on the opportunity to pursue an ideal MSc.
4. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, Red Cross Hospital and the children which remain in the Neurosurgical Intensive Care Unit would greatly benefit from this research. Currently there are state-of-the-art neurosurgical monitoring equipment which are not being used to collect data and optimize patient care. This is due to the fact there has not been a dedicated individual trained to use and analyse the information generated from these monitors. I hope to learn these skills during the MSc and subsequently teach future doctors and students how use this advanced technology.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

**Sincerely,**

**Eran Shorer**

I have compiled and attached a daily workplan as to how I shall balance my MBChB commitments with the early stages of the MSc. Moreover, I have support from the MSc supervisor (Prof Anthony Figaji) and MBChB sixth year convenor (Prof. Ayanda Gcelu) who have both written motivations for me to pursue this endeavour.

For further enquires please contact me at SHRERA001@myuct.ac.za