

# **Professor GRAEME JONES**

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## **To Whom It May Concern,**

It is with confidence that I provide this letter in support of Fatemeh Vazirian's application for the Australian National Innovation Visa. I supervised Fatemeh during her PhD at the Menzies Institute for Medical Research, University of Tasmania, where she has consistently demonstrated high levels of analytical skill, independence, and scientific rigour.

Fatemeh's doctoral research investigates the early biological mechanisms linking chronic pain with neurodegenerative disorders, including Parkinson's disease, dementia, and multiple sclerosis. Her project combines large-scale population data with advanced biostatistical and computational methods to identify early indicators of disease. This work integrates neuroscience, epidemiology, and data science, and reflects her capacity to manage and interpret complex datasets at a level comparable to an early-career researcher.

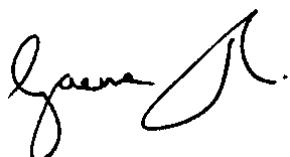
Her research outputs provide evidence of substantial productivity and impact. She has published 10 peer-reviewed papers (all as first author), with an H-index of 6, and has disseminated her findings through national and international conferences, including the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA), the Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG), and the Australian Pain Society (APS). Her first-author publications in *Movement Disorders* and *GeroScience* have advanced hypotheses on the link between chronic pain and neurodegeneration, contributing new insights into disease pathophysiology.

Beyond her doctoral work, Fatemeh has applied her analytical expertise to other research areas. For example, she led a project examining associations between serological infections and osteoarthritis risk, which she presented at the Osteoarthritis Research Society International (OARSI) World Congress. This demonstrates her capacity to extend advanced analytic frameworks across different biomedical domains.

Ms. Vazirian's approach to research is methodical, data-driven, and collaborative. She engages thoughtfully with complex scientific questions, works effectively across disciplines, and consistently produces high-quality work within short timeframes. She has also received competitive distinctions, including the Menzies Institute Top-Up Scholarship for academic progress and the AAG Tasmania Bursary for research excellence.

In my view, Fatemeh has achieved a great deal across a wide range of topics within a relatively short period. She is well positioned to contribute to Australia's strategic priorities in neuroscience, data science, and population health research. I am confident that she will continue to develop as a productive and innovative researcher within the Australian research environment.

Yours sincerely,



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