31 Jul 2019

Dr. Amit Acharya
Executive Director
Marshfield Clinic Research Institute

Re: Letter of Support for the Nomination of Dr. Shicheng Guo for Gwen D. Sebold Fellowship for Outstanding Young Investigator

Dear Dr. Acharya and Executive Committee:

I am writing this letter in strong support for Dr. Allaire's nomination of Dr. Shicheng Guo for the 2019 Gwen D. Sebold Fellowship for Outstanding Young Investigator Award. Dr. Guo joined the Center for Precision Medicine Research at the Marshfield Clinic Research Institute in 2017 where he hold the position of postdoctoral research fellow. During his tenure, I have had the pleasure of working closely with Dr. Guo on numerous scientific studies investigating the genetics and epigenetics of diseases that impact Marshfield Clinic patients. Over the past two years, his work at MCRI has resulted in remarkable scientific and medical advances that will dramatically improve clinical practice.

In 2015, Dr. Guo was awarded a Ph.D. in Life Sciences from Fudan University and has subsequently held research positions at the University of Texas Health Science Center and the University of California prior to accepting his current position at MCRI. His outstanding research achievements and outstanding productivity stem from his deep understanding of informatics, quantitative methods, molecular biology and genetics. Dr. Guo has been awarded numerous honors and awards within China and the US and has been awarded two patents. Impressively, he has authored 52 impactful scientific publications, the results of which have transformed the field of disease epigenetics. He has also served as a reviewer for 15 leading scientific journals. Indeed, although he recently obtained his Ph.D., Dr. Guo's contribution to medical science has been simply striking.

Within the 20 months at MCRI, Dr. Guo has published eight high impact scientific publications in the areas of genetics and epigenetics of disease. These publications include two first author publications, two corresponding author publications and four collaborative author publications. The findings from his work have been nothing short of remarkable:

- Using a novel genetics approach, Dr. Guo has discovered a new biological mechanism for iron overload disorders.
- Dr. Guo has identified a panel of tumor suppressor factors and a hypermethylated gene that play critically important roles in esophageal cancer.
- Dr. Guo has discovered unique DNA methylation profiles for multiple autoimmune diseases.

- Dr. Guo has used deep learning methods to effectively predict response to chemotherapies.
- Dr. Guo has developed a methylation-based panel useful for the prediction of liver cancer progression and surveillance.

His colleagues have recognized the importance of Dr. Guo's work and have invited him to give several MCRI scientific seminars, a seminar at the Shanghai Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, and to present at the American Society of Human Genetics conference. Additionally, he has been award the prestigious NLM-funded CIBM postdoctoral fellowship to study genetic and epigenetic interactions in PMRP to understand the molecular pathogenesis of numerous diseases in the Central Wisconsin population.

Moreover, Dr. Guo is a delightful colleague who always helps other MCRI scientists and continually mentors other scientists in computational biology, bioinformatics, genetics, epigenetics, and molecular biology. As such, he has been an exceptional asset to the Marshfield Clinic Healthcare System. In short, Dr. Guo is an internationally recognized leader in developing computational tools for understanding the etiology of diseases and the molecular mechanisms underlying medical traits. His scientific insights, vision, collaborative disposition, productivity and acumen cannot be underestimated. Hence, it is without hesitation that I give Dr. Guo the strongest recommendation possible for the Gwen D. Sebold Fellowship for Young Investigator.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Schrodi, PhD
Associate Research Scientist
Center for Precision Medicine Research
Marshfield Clinic Research Institute