October 23, 2018

Harvard University
Department of Neuroscience
19 Appian Way
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Admissions Committee:

I am delighted to submit this recommendation letter on behalf of **Student B** in support of her application to the PhD Program in Neuroscience at Harvard University. I have known Student B for the past year as she has taken two of my courses and is currently enrolled in one. I am the Department Head of Neuroscience and Cellular and Molecular Biology at the University of Arizona and teach three courses, as previously mentioned, and know her well as a hard-working, highly motivated, intelligent, mature, and focused student that holds a deep passion and commitment to her studies in Neuroscience in addition to her engagement in research.

Student B has displayed a strong dedication to learning the principles of Neuroscience in the courses that I teach: Molecular and Cellular Biology of Neurons, Cellular Neurophysiology, and Learning and Memory. She excelled in the first two courses, earning an excellent grade in both, and appears to be holding herself to no less of the same standard in Learning and Memory. She time and time again has demonstrated her eagerness to understand and think critically about the information presented, visiting nearly all of my office hours to ask questions and to extrapolate on the materials covered in the classes. No doubt would these qualities equate to that of a student that will easily excel in a future in graduate education and beyond.

Student B is highly aware of what she intends to study in graduate education, as she has worked two years in a research laboratory studying the role of epigenetics in concern to neural plasticity: one of my strongest interests in the field of neuroscience. We have spoken numerous times on the subject of epigenetics, and I can see her sophisticated understanding of the topic and her passion for discovery in the area as she completed a summer research program with her chosen project focusing on epigenetics and plasticity. It is also my understanding that this will be the focus of her senior capstone as well. In addition, Student B, while making a substantial effort to perform well in these courses and her research, has contended with financial burden and is a first-generation college student, having spoken to me about the many challenges she has faced as a result. Unsurprisingly, Student B has surpassed my expectations for a student's drive to excel and was truly honored when accepted into the Ronald E. McNair Achievement Program here at UA, truly fitting given her background and her doctoral aspirations. Ultimately, Student B aims to become a university professor and researcher after graduate education and I personally could see no other avenue that would be more fitting for her passion, drive, and illuminating curiosity.

Therefore, I can say with great confidence that Student B undeniably has a future in graduate education and would make an excellent researcher as her curiosity and passion for neuroscience extends far beyond what is expected. She has demonstrated outstanding drive and critical thinking skills that make for a highly successful researcher with a bright future. Student B is highly deserving of her acceptance into the PhD Program in Neuroscience at Harvard University so that she may continue her achievements as a scholar and excel in her future profession as a university professor and researcher. I highly and enthusiastically recommend her to you.

Sincerely,

Cool Science Professor, PhD
Head of the Department of Neuroscience
The University of Arizona

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Commented [HAL-(5)]: Descriptors

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