

## Re: referee request (kelly roe)

Inbox x



← **Sayre-McCord, Geoff** sayre-mccord@unc.edu via adminliveunc.on... Mon, Oct 19, 2020, 8:07 AM  
to me ▼



Dear Kelly,

I was pleased to see your name in my inbox, but then saddened to hear of the difficulties you have faced since leaving North Carolina. I cannot even imagine how trying it has been.

Unfortunately, I am not in a good position to write a letter of reference for medical school for you. We worked together 11 years ago, so I am neither deeply informed nor up to date. Moreover, what I could speak to, reaching back to 2009, would not, I imagine, be the sort of thing medical schools are concerned with when making admissions decisions.

I believe you would be much better served getting a letter from someone with whom you have worked recently in some capacity (not necessarily in the context of school), who can speak directly and in an informed way about you as a person or co-worker, or about your abilities that are relevant to success in medical school and the practice of medicine.

I realize this is disappointing and again, am terribly sorry for the challenges you have faced in pursuing your goals.

Sincerely,

Geoff

---

Geoffrey Sayre-McCord  
Morehead-Cain Distinguished Professor  
Philosophy Department  
CB #3125, Caldwell Hall  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
919.627.1403

## Re: referee request (kelly roe)

Inbox x



← **Sayre-McCord, Geoff** sayre-mccord@unc.edu via adminliveunc.onmi... Fri, Oct 23, 2020, 1:41 PM  
to me, Geoff ▼



Kelly,

There is nothing wrong with the way you asked me for a letter. I am sorry if something I said suggested otherwise. Also, it never occurred to me to think you were asking me to speak beyond my experience. My concern is that my experience of you is very limited and a long time ago. So my thought has been that there must be someone who knows you better and more recently who can write for you. If not, I am willing to write, but very concerned that what I write will be able to write will not really be very helpful and that the contrast between what I can write, in light of what I do know, and what they expect will be a problem. In my experience, the recommendations that count are those that are current and well informed. Otherwise, the admissions people wonder "Why is this letter here? Why not a letter from someone who has worked with her/known her recently?"

Cordially,

Geoff

---

Geoffrey Sayre-McCord  
Morehead-Cain Distinguished Professor  
Philosophy Department  
CB #3125, Caldwell Hall  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
919.627.1403