

April 28, 2015

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

RE: Dr. Isabelle Ester Bauer, Ph.D.

Dear Sir/Madam:

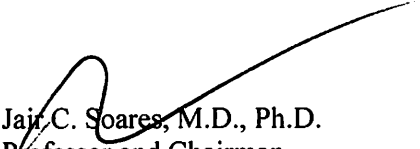
This letter is intended to give my unconditional support to Dr. Isabelle Ester Bauer's application for U.S. Permanent Resident Status. Dr. Bauer has made several significant contributions to the field of bipolar disorder research. This letter will serve to document my professional interactions with her and the reasons why she has my strong and unconditional support.

I would like to first give a brief description of my background. I am currently a Professor and Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Executive Director of the University of Texas Harris County Psychiatric Centre and Director of UT Centre of Excellence on Mood Disorders. I direct research that has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health for over 15 years. This research has made important contributions to our knowledge of Bipolar Disorder. I have published more than 200 papers in prestigious international scientific journals. A copy of my curriculum vitae is attached for your information. I believe that I am well qualified to write this letter to judge Dr. Bauer's scientific credentials and achievements.

I have mentored Dr. Bauer since 2013. Her research has centered on elucidating the molecular mechanisms of bipolar disorder and developing new strategies for the prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment of bipolar disorder. Bipolar disorder is one of the most common, and disabling, conditions affecting human kind. Each year, millions of individuals struggle with the effects of this illness. Dr. Bauer has successfully identified important structural changes that underlie this condition, as well as behavioral markers that may help develop specific cognitive interventions for bipolar disorder. Her outstanding research work has resulted in several publications in high impact international peer reviewed journals including *Journal of Affective Disorders*, and *Journal of Psychiatric Research*. The significant influence of Dr. Bauer's outstanding research work has been well recognized as evidenced by the fact that she has been frequently sought to review other research group's papers for several international peer-reviewed journals.

I have no doubt that Dr. Bauer's numerous significant research accomplishments have placed her among the top researchers in the field. She has made and will undoubtedly continue to make outstanding contributions to the field of bipolar disorder research. I strongly endorse her permanent residency application without any reservation.

Sincerely,



Jair C. Soares, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor and Chairman
Pat R. Rutherford, Jr Chair in Psychiatry
Executive Director, Harris County Psychiatric Center