

June 5, 2015

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

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

Dear Immigration Officer:

It is my pleasure to recommend Dr. Isabelle E. Bauer for permanent residency in the United States based on her outstanding research contributions to the field of mental health research. I believe that it is in the best interest of this country to retain Dr. Bauer who is an outstanding and innovative researcher.

I am currently a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. I have held numerous research, clinical and administrative positions in academic medicine. In these capacities I have had substantial contact with a number of scientists and faculty members. I have received research grants from grant bodies in Brasil, Europe and the US. I have participated in continuous medical education from Lilly, AstraZeneca and Janssen and has served as a consultant/advisory board for Servier. My research focuses in the biological underpinnings of the progression of major psychiatric disorders. Lately I have contributed to establishing measurements of neurotrophins, inflammation and oxidative stress as biomarkers of illness activity and illness progression in bipolar disorders. I believe I am eminently qualified to evaluate the significant influence of Dr. Bauer's innovative and invaluable research contributions.

The molecular pathways activated in chronic psychiatric disorders relate to inflammation, oxidative stress, and changes in growth factors which are highly convergent with the changes seen in other chronic medical conditions such as metabolic disorders and atherosclerosis. Notably patients with severe psychiatric morbidity present higher mortality ratios than healthy counterparts. Dr. Bauer's postdoctoral work has so far focused on highlighting primary risk factors for maintaining and enhancing mood symptoms in bipolar disorder such as diabetes and cardiovascular ailments. Further, her review of the current literature has identified primary inflammatory factors that may reduce cognitive functioning. She is currently working on two projects aimed at reducing inflammation by the implementation of non-pharmacological interventions involving dietary supplements. Her outstanding achievement resulted in several publications in top-tier international peer reviewed journals including *Journal of Psychiatric Research*, *Journal of Affective Disorders*, *Progress in Neuro-Psychopharmacology & Biological Psychiatry*. Because of the significant impact of her work in the entire field of bipolar disorder research, she was invited to author a book chapter. Notably, Dr. Bauer is regularly invited to review other research group's papers for more than 10 peer-reviewed journals in psychiatry, psychology and genetics.

In summary, Dr. Bauer's continued research work is certainly in the national interest of the United States because it will lead to the development of new approaches for identifying and implementing novel and non-invasive interventions in bipolar disorder and improve the health and quality of life of those bipolar disorder patients. Dr. Bauer's research contributions have far

exceeded those of most other researchers working in the field. Based on her past accomplishments, I am convinced that Dr. Bauer will continue to make highly significant contributions to enhance our knowledge of the neurobiological correlates of bipolar disorder. For these reasons, I strongly believe that it is in the United States' best interest to grant Dr. Isabelle Bauer's petition so she can continue to carry out the research supported by the U.S. government, which will benefit millions of this country's citizens.

Sincerely,

Professor Flavio Kapczinski, M.D., Ph.D.
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