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

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

Dear Immigration Officer:

This letter is written as evidence of my unconditional support to Dr. Isabelle Ester Bauer's application for U.S. Permanent Resident Status. Dr. Bauer has already made several highly significant contributions to the field of neurocognition and mental health research as evidenced by her 16 papers published in leading international scientific journals.

I am a Professor at La Trobe University in Melbourne (Australia) (see title and address below) and my research focuses on neuroinflammation and neuroplasticity in neurodevelopmental and neurodegenerative disorders. Furthermore I am interested in the neural mechanisms underlying post-stroke depression. Over the last 5 years, as part of these projects I focused on the effects of dietary lifestyle on depressive symptoms originating from cardiovascular insult such as stroke. Indeed, an increase in inflammation not only increases the production of oxidative products but also decreases neurotrophic factors that protect against neurocognitive impairment. Dietary changes such as omega-3 supplementation have been consistently used to decrease inflammation and associated processes. Based on my qualifications I believe I am eminently qualified to evaluate the significance of Dr. Bauer's innovative and invaluable research contributions in the field of nutrition and neurocognition.

I was fortunate to become Dr. Bauer's Ph.D. supervisor in 2008. She was awarded a Swinburne Postgraduate scholarship for her outstanding academic achievements and research involvement in both Europe and Australia. I invited her to become involved in an industry project focusing on the effects of omega-3 fatty acids on neurocognition that involved physiological, electrophysiological, neuroimaging, and cognitive measures. During her 4-year Ph.D. research, she made a number of significant contributions in elucidating the effects of omega-3 fatty acids on neurocognitive functioning. Her innovative and outstanding research work can be illustrated by the following accomplishments: 1. Her work on the effects of omega-3 fatty acids on the parvocellular and magnocellular visual pathways resulted in one publication in the international, peer-reviewed publication of which Dr. Bauer is first author. 2. Dr. Bauer is first author of 2 authors manuscripts submitted and accepted in *Human Psychopharmacology: Clinical and Experimental*, a rigorous, high-impact journal in the field of psychopharmacology. In these

papers, Dr. Bauer used various means of electrophysiological, neuroimaging and cognitive techniques to investigate the effects of omega-3 supplementation on brain function. 3. Dr. Bauer has been invited to present her work in numerous scientific and industry-based meetings including the Brain Health and Natural Medicine, Melbourne, Australia, and the 10th Conference of the International Society for the Study of Fatty Acids and Lipids (ISSFAL), Vancouver, Canada. Thus, Dr. Bauer's scientific discoveries have made significant and direct impacts in our understanding of the neural correlates of omega-3 fatty acid supplementation.

In view of the above information, I believe Dr. Bauer is a highly specialized, very innovative, and outstanding young scientist. She is uniquely qualified and equipped with both clinical knowledge and research expertise. The research she is carrying out will continue to make significant contributions to the effects of dietary lifestyle in a number of fields including mental health research that will be of great benefit to the health of the Americans and others worldwide. I strongly urge that her petition be granted. If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards



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