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

RE: Dr. Isabelle Bauer's Immigration Visa Petition

Dear Immigration officer,

It is my privilege to offer my advisory opinions as an independent expert as to Dr. Isabelle Bauer's original and premiere discoveries. My opinions are based on my review of her well-documented research contributions in the field of bipolar disorder and cognition research. Dr. Bauer is among a very small set of researchers who have risen to the top on this specific research discipline. Her continued research work in the United States will greatly benefit the American people by improving cognitive rehabilitation and helping individuals with bipolar disorder reintegrate the society.

I am a Professor at the Brain and Psychological Sciences Research Centre, Swinburne University of Technology, and have adjunct positions at Monash Alfred Psychiatry research centre and Psychiatry within St Vincent's Health in Melbourne (Australia). My research has focused on understanding the cognitive and neurobiological processes involved in psychosis and related psychiatric disorders. Since Dr. Bauer is also working in the field of psychiatry and more in particular bipolar disorder, I have followed her publications and research closely. Personally, I never had an opportunity to work with Dr. Bauer. Hence I feel I am well positioned to provide an objective assessment of Dr. Bauer's accomplishments and significant impact in this area.

After a review of Dr. Bauer's research publications, conference presentations, and her current research work, based on my own extensive background and expertise in this field, here is my advisory opinion: (i) Dr. Bauer is an outstanding research scientist with remarkable research ability in the fields of diagnosis, prevention and intervention addressing bipolar disorder; (ii) Dr. Bauer has received sustained acclaim and recognition for her achievements in her field through her important publications in prestigious peer-reviewed journals; and (iii) Dr. Bauer's research findings provide new information for the development of novel interventions to target cognitive impairment in bipolar disorder and improve the long-term outcome in individuals suffering from this serious disease.





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Dr. Bauer has a cross disciplinary background in Cognitive Neuroscience, Neuropsychology, and Psychopharmacology. This unique combination of research background and skills enables her to make extraordinary contributions in her research area. During the past few years, Dr. Bauer has made a lot of important discoveries and significant contributions in the field of nutrition and neurocognition. During her Ph.D. study, she discovered that a short-term omega-3 rich supplementation improved cognitive performance and enhanced neurocognitive functioning. Her research results led to 3 peer-reviewed publications, which have been cited many times by other research groups. In her current research, she is focusing on the neuroanatomical abnormalities of bipolar disorder using cutting-edge neuroimaging techniques such as functional magnetic resonance imaging and diffusion tensor imaging. Further, she is using standardized cognitive instruments to measure deficits in bipolar disorder and determine the key predictors of functional in bipolar disorder. These studies are driven by the rationale that cognition may be a marker of neural integrity across all phases of the disease and may constitute an important therapeutic target in disability reduction. Her research findings have been published in the *Journal of Psychiatric Research*, one of the top-tier international scientific journals in psychiatry.

Dr. Bauer's important discoveries have made a significant impact in her field of endeavor. Her research work has resulted in 16 papers published in international scientific journals, which is really extraordinary for a young scientist like her. Her papers have been cited more than 50 times by other research groups. She has been invited to present her research results at several international professional conferences. In recognition of her expertise, she has been invited to review other research group's papers for 13 international scientific journals.

Taken together, I have no doubt that Dr. Bauer's significant research accomplishments have made her one of the top researchers in the fields of affective disorders and neurocognition. Her research contributions have far exceeded the majority of her peers. Her continued research work in the U.S. will significantly improve the health care of the American people. Therefore, I urge you to give Dr. Bauer's application for permanent resident the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

S Rossell

Susan Rossell, Ph.D.