Dear Pat,

I am writing in support of your proposal, “Development of reproducible informatics skills among microbiome researchers”, which you are submitting to the “Training Modules to Enhance Data Reproducibility (R25)” program at NIGMS. ***You continue to have the full support of the Department of Microbiology & Immunology and the School of Medicine in this endeavor including assistance in the provision of adequate staff, facilities, and educational resources that to contribute to your planned research education program***. Since you joined the department five years ago you have successfully leveraged this type of support to continuously fund your research program, train exceptional graduate students and postdocs, and continue your excellent research career leading to your promotion with tenure to Associate Professor in September 2013.

You have also made a significant impact on the teaching mission within the department by developing popular courses in *Symbiosis* and *Microbial informatics*. I was excited to hear that you have been using *Microbial Informatics* as a seedbed to develop the ideas you are proposing in this proposal. The enrollment of your courses steadily grow and frequently attract the attention of senior graduate students and postdocs who take the class not because they need it for graduation, but because they need it for their research. This is a high compliment that busy researchers stop to take your class because they find it useful and well taught. Within these courses you do a great job of attracting a diverse array of students from various departments and strong representation of women. I am confident that you will continue to do the same as you prepare, evaluate, and disseminate the proposed materials to our peers in the area of host-microbiome research.

Speaking to our support of your research was the recent creation of the Host-Microbiome Initiative of which I am the co-Director and you have a major role (http://medicine.umich.edu/medschool/research/research-strengths/host-microbiome-initiative). Thus far, the initiative had added new faculty, provided funds to support and improve core facilities, and helped launch several research projects. With this comes investigators who are new to microbiome research and have already benefited from interactions with you and members of your research group. It is great to know that you are going to develop training modules that will benefit microbiome researchers at the University of Michigan and throughout the world. Within my own lab we have recently begun to add next generation sequencing to the tools that we use to better understand uropathogenic microorganisms. My trainees generally receive little prior instruction on how to work with large datasets. Your development of training modules to disseminate best practices for microbiome-based informatics research will be a welcome tool that I can use to help train my researchers. I would be happy to incorporate your modules into my training program and we would welcome the opportunity to provide feedback as you develop and refine the materials.

I wish you the best of success in this new project!

Sincerely…