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December 19, 2025

Gastrointestinal Pathology Fellowship Selection Committee
Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis
Department of Pathology & Immunology
Saint Louis, MO

Re: Strong recommendation for Peter Neon, MD - Gastrointestinal Pathology Fellowship

Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

I am writing with great enthusiasm to recommend **Peter Neon, MD** for your Gastrointestinal Pathology Fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis. I serve as Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Michigan and direct our Gastrointestinal and Hepatobiliary Pathology subspecialty practice. I supervise trainees on a high-volume academic GI service and evaluate readiness for independent, consultative practice. Over the last two years I have worked with Dr. Neon in several settings, and I consider him an exceptionally rigorous, dependable, and clinically mature trainee.

I first met Dr. Neon during his **Clinical Pathology residency at Stanford University Medical Center**, when he completed a visiting elective on our GI and liver pathology service. Despite joining a new laboratory and sign-out culture, he integrated seamlessly. From the outset he previewed cases with the mindset of a consultant: he framed a concise differential, highlighted the decisive histologic features, and anticipated the ancillary studies and clinical questions that would matter to the treating team.

One case that illustrates his approach involved colon biopsies from an immunosuppressed patient with refractory diarrhea. While others saw a nonspecific injury pattern, Dr. Neon identified subtle viral cytopathic change on H&E;, recommended targeted immunohistochemistry, and coordinated with microbiology to align tissue findings with concurrent stool testing and medication history. His work prevented delay and demonstrated the balance I value most in GI pathology: sound morphology paired with practical, clinically integrated decision-making. When uncertainty remained, he was appropriately transparent and proposed a rational, stepwise plan rather than overcalling or hedging without direction.

After the elective, we continued to collaborate on a small multi-institutional effort to standardize reporting language for inflammatory bowel disease surveillance specimens and complex hepatobiliary resections. Dr. Neon drafted synoptic elements, identified ambiguous terminology that could change clinical action, and built a brief, high-yield checklist for trainees that has improved our consistency and turnaround time. His writing is precise, but also usable - a rare combination.

Dr. Neon is currently completing a **Hematopathology Fellowship at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center**, and the cross-disciplinary perspective he has gained there is directly relevant to modern GI pathology. He consistently thinks in terms of systemic disease processes and

therapy effects, and he communicates these patterns clearly in reports and case discussions. In our joint reviews of challenging post-transplant biopsies, he was particularly effective at integrating clinical course, laboratory data, and histology into a single, actionable recommendation for the care team.

Equally important, Dr. Neon is a generous educator and an excellent colleague. He teaches without ego, invites questions, and makes trainees comfortable acknowledging uncertainty. His draft reports are concise, clinically oriented, and thoughtful about laboratory stewardship - ordering ancillary tests when they add value and avoiding unnecessary panels when morphology and context already provide the answer. He meets deadlines, follows through on every open loop, and elevates the professionalism of the team around him.

In summary, Dr. Neon combines outstanding diagnostic skill, mature clinical judgment, and the work ethic required for a demanding GI fellowship. I am confident he will thrive at Washington University and quickly become a leader among his peers. I recommend him to you without reservation.

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

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