Sylvia Marwood, MD, MS (Clinical Informatics)

Medical Director, Pathology Informatics and Data Science
Associate Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology & Biomedical Informatics
University of Washington Medical Center
1959 NE Pacific Street, Box 357110, Seattle, WA 98195
Phone: (206) 555-0148 | Email: Sylvia.Marwood@example.com

December 19, 2025

Clinical Informatics Fellowship Selection Committee
Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis
St. Louis, MO

Re: Strong Recommendation for Jessica Santiago, MD

Dear Members of the Clinical Informatics Fellowship Selection Committee:

It is a pleasure to write in strong support of **Jessica Santiago, MD** for the Clinical Informatics Fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis. I am the Medical Director for Pathology Informatics and Data Science at the University of Washington Medical Center, where I oversee clinical systems for anatomic pathology, digital pathology workflow, analytics, and governance of laboratory data for enterprise clinical decision support. I have worked closely with Dr. Santiago for the past eighteen months through a multi-institutional pathology informatics collaboration and through national committee service, and I can state without reservation that she is among the most insightful and effective early-career physicians I have encountered in clinical informatics.

I first met Dr. Santiago while she was an Anatomic Pathology resident at the University of California, San Francisco, when she joined the College of American Pathologists (CAP) Pathology Informatics Committee as a resident member. In that role, she partnered with our working group to improve the interoperability of synoptic cancer reporting across institutions. Even as a resident, she quickly earned the trust of senior pathologists, LIS analysts, and vendor partners because she could translate complex clinical requirements into precise technical specifications and then validate that the resulting build actually improved patient care.

One project in particular illustrates her impact. Our group was tasked with harmonizing synoptic reporting elements for breast cancer resections so that downstream systems could reliably consume structured data for tumor boards, registries, and quality dashboards. Dr. Santiago took ownership of the most challenging segment: mapping narrative and semi-structured fields into discrete data elements and reconciling differences in local terminologies. She created a practical crosswalk between CAP eCC, SNOMED CT concepts, and commonly used LIS result components, and she built a validation dataset to quantify error modes (missing elements, discordant staging language, and ambiguous margin descriptors). Her work directly informed our final implementation guide and reduced extraction failures in our pilot by more than half.

What sets Dr. Santiago apart is not simply technical fluency, but a clinician's discipline about safety, usability, and governance. During our pilot, she insisted that we define what "correct" meant for each data element (including edge cases), and she designed a lightweight monitoring approach that flagged drift as templates evolved. She also advocated for a feedback loop with end users—attending

pathologists and trainees—so that the build would improve efficiency without increasing cognitive burden. In meetings, she was consistently the person who could articulate tradeoffs clearly, anticipate unintended consequences, and propose a solution that balanced clinical reality with technical constraints.

Dr. Santiago's current Breast Pathology fellowship at Mayo Clinic has further strengthened her candidacy for clinical informatics. She brings deep domain expertise in a high-volume subspecialty where standardized reporting and multidisciplinary communication are essential. In our discussions, she consistently thinks beyond the "tool" to the entire sociotechnical system: how data are generated, verified, transmitted, and acted upon. She has shared thoughtful reflections on integrating biomarker results (ER/PR/HER2, Ki-67) into structured pathways and on building decision support that is transparent, auditable, and aligned with evidence-based guidelines.

Equally important, Dr. Santiago is an exceptional colleague. She communicates with calm clarity, is generous with credit, and follows through on commitments. She has a rare ability to lead without hierarchy—bringing together clinicians, informaticians, data engineers, and administrators and helping each group feel heard. Her writing is concise and persuasive, and her presentations are grounded in real clinical workflow, not abstractions. If your program values fellows who can contribute immediately to projects involving structured data, interoperability (HL7 v2, FHIR), analytics, and quality improvement, Dr. Santiago will be a standout.

In summary, I recommend Dr. Jessica Santiago to you with the highest enthusiasm. She pairs strong diagnostic training in anatomic pathology with unusually mature informatics judgment, technical curiosity, and an unwavering commitment to patient-centered design. I am confident she will excel in Washington University's Clinical Informatics Fellowship and will emerge as a leader who advances both the science and the practice of informatics in pathology and beyond.

Please feel free to contact me at Sylvia.Marwood@example.com if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Marwood, MD, MS

Medical Director, Pathology Informatics and Data Science

University of Washington Medical Center