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RE: Application for an ASCRS Career Development Award for John Doe, MD

Dear Review Committee:

It gives me great pleasure to provide my support on behalf of Dr. John Doe for a Career Development Award through the ASCRS.

Dr. Doe joined the Hershey Medical Center Department of Surgery in 2010 after completing his colorectal fellowship at Blank University in Main Street, PA. Since joining our department, Dr. Doe has focused his research efforts on the study of ??????. During his first year at HMC, he worked diligently to identify the appropriate mentors who also serve as his current collaborators, all in an effort to make his research efforts successful. Dr. Doe has been collaborating with Dr. Bear, PhD, as a basic scientist collaborator, as well as working with Dr. Antelope, an ??? expert. Dr. Doe obtained IRB approval to collect *C. difficile* positive stool samples from inpatients and outpatients at HMC, allowing specific bacterial characteristics to be identified in an effort to predict disease outcomes and to improve patient care. Since receiving IRB approval to begin his work, Dr. Doe has successfully published a manuscript on *C. difficile* in the *Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery* (DOI 10.1007/s11605-011-1615-6), had an oral presentation at the Central Surgical Association meeting in March 2011 with the corresponding manuscript accepted to *Surgery* (in press), had a poster presentation at Digestive Disease Week in May 2011 (manuscript in preparation), and was invited for an oral presentation at the Tripartite Colorectal meeting in Cairns, Australia in July 2011. Dr. Doe will also be presenting on *C. difficile* at the American College of Surgeons (October 2011), and is preparing additional abstracts on *C. difficile* for the 2012 ASCRS and DDW meetings. As you can see, Dr. Doe has been quite productive since beginning his *C. difficile* research. He has currently enrolled approximately 60 patients in his *C. difficile* tissue bank, proving that his research goals are quite feasible at this institution and with his current team.

Dr. Doe's application for a Career Development Award is part of an effort to build upon his initial research successes toward becoming a national authority on *C. difficile* as it relates to surgical patients, and his present work is a continuing effort toward that goal. His research has great clinical relevance, and represents an area where there is a dearth of information in the surgical literature, which is in great need of improvement. *C. difficile* colitis is a common disease nationally, and it is often deadly, while our ability to anticipate disease course and to treat the infection successfully is limited.

I enthusiastically support Dr. Doe's CDA application, including his 7% effort committed to this research project. I am certain that he will use this grant successfully to publish research that will improve our understanding of this disease process, to provide an innovation in our understanding and approach to the disease, and that ultimately his work will provide the basis for future extra-mural funding.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Peter Dillon, M.D.