

Mentored Scientist Award Program in HIV-AIDS  
Letter of Support Template

Date

Dear RAP Committee,

It is my pleasure to write a letter of support on behalf of Dr. \_\_\_\_\_, who is submitting an application for a CFAR Mentored Scientist Award. Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ proposed study is the first of its kind to \_\_\_\_\_ and will result in key epidemiologic data in \_\_\_\_\_.

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_'s proposed project is an ideal means for his/her to strengthen the research skills he/she gained through work at the \_\_\_\_\_ and at UCSF. As mentor for Dr. \_\_\_\_\_, I will provide guidance in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. My mentoring plan with Dr. \_\_\_\_\_, includes advice on the development of his/her research proposals and grant applications. Once Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ generates data through this proposed study, I will also dedicate time to advising im/her on the best analytic approaches to evaluating the data. In my own research and mentorship, I have been the PI and co-investigator on many \_\_\_\_\_ clinical trials and cohort studies in \_\_\_\_\_ and will add my expertise in statistical analysis and study design to Dr. \_\_\_\_\_'s mentorship team. I have mentored numerous post-doctoral fellows who have gone on to attain academic faculty positions in \_\_\_\_\_ research.

Having worked with Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ over the past year, I have been thoroughly impressed by his/her commitment to research and the ease with which he/she has incorporated feedback and advanced his/her abilities in research methods and study design. He/She has the skills and motivation needed to have a successful research career. I have the utmost confidence that the data from this study will not only be a significant contribution to \_\_\_\_\_ research but will also provide a strong basis for a successful K23 award and open the door to a successful research career.

Sincerely,

....., degrees  
Title and position  
Center/Department

Date

Dept.

Re: **CFAR Mentored Scientist Award application from .....**

Dear RAP Committee:

I am delighted to provide this letter for **Dr. [REDACTED]**'s application to confirm my highest level of support and enthusiasm for this work. I've mentored **Dr. [REDACTED]** for more than one year and watched him/her develop an ambitious but attainable research plan that I am certain will provide the necessary foundation for a highly competitive NIH K23 application. His/Her chosen area of research is highly important internationally, complementary to my own work and in area where UCSF should excel. The application is responsive to the CFAR goals of training highly qualified clinician-researchers and his/her revisions aggressively address the few concerns previously raised. I am confident that, if funded, this work will set him/her on a track toward independent funding.

I have been **Dr. [REDACTED]**'s primary mentor in **[REDACTED]** since 2011, when he/she initiated a 3-year, research-track **[REDACTED]** fellowship at UCSF. Having completed an **[REDACTED]** fellowship and given his/her interest in **[REDACTED]**, he/she was ideally positioned to address the emerging topics of **[REDACTED]**. Over the past year, we have met or talked nearly every week as he/she developed this proposal and established a plan towards an independent academic career. During this time, we co-authored an invited review for **XYZ Journal** focused on **[REDACTED]**. Through all encounters, I have been continuously impressed with **Dr. [REDACTED]**'s ability to critically consider the existing published work on this topic – many that have major limitations ranging from small sample sizes to erroneous assumptions that **[REDACTED]** will blindly apply **[REDACTED]**. Issues of **[REDACTED]**, as noted by his/her reviewers, have been aggressively vetted in these discussions. The protocol outlined in this application emerged as he/she aims to fill the void in the published domain regarding the appropriateness of **[REDACTED]** in this population.

As a testament to the Division's commitment to **Dr. [REDACTED]**'s success, we committed bridging funds to initiate his/her project while he/she planned this resubmission. This small funding allowed him/her to start the project (30 cases now enrolled) and test feasibility. His/Her revised application comes after assuring the project is practical, adding strength. I will continue to provide comprehensive support to his/her development. I plan to meet with him/her as often as needed to review progress, troubleshoot issues and understand the data. We currently aim for face-to-face meetings no less than monthly. He/She also has full access to the **UCSF [REDACTED] Cohort** to expand this work beyond the **[REDACTED]** project, if needed. I am currently working with **Dr. YYY** to co-enroll all subjects into **[REDACTED]**..

My career has focused on the topic of **[REDACTED]**. Through this work, I have developed a track, record of success in mentoring junior faculty. Before moving to UCSF, I established the **[REDACTED] Cohort Study**, enrolling over 500 individuals and publishing dozens of papers. Throughout this time, I mentored medical students and junior faculty. In DATE, I chose to obtain added training in **[REDACTED]** and transitioned my research program to UCSF where I have established the **UCSF [REDACTED] Cohort**. In DATE, my K24 grant application designed to support mentoring in the field of **[REDACTED]** was favorably reviewed (score of 2.0, council pending), providing further evidence of my dedication to developing the next generation of outstanding junior **[REDACTED]** investigators at UCSF.

Dr \_\_\_\_\_'s work is highly congruent with mine, but he/she will have a distinctive focus on \_\_\_\_\_. We recently modified our protocol to capture \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, allowing us to investigate the interplay between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, but simultaneously expanding our breadth in a way that would support outstanding junior investigator such as Dr \_\_\_\_\_. Given my background of \_\_\_\_\_, this is a natural progression of my \_\_\_\_\_ work and will more comprehensively allow me to mentor Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ and others. This is precisely the type of environment that will support his/her success.

An additional strength of Dr. \_\_\_\_\_'s application is the integration of resources across UCSF, involving (1) co-mentoring from Dr. \_\_\_\_\_, an internationally recognized \_\_\_\_\_ leader, (2) use of the outstanding \_\_\_\_\_ cohort, and (3) the highly accessible consultative support from Dr \_\_\_\_\_ and internationally recognized leader in \_\_\_\_\_ outcomes. I feel highly capable of assisting his/her in managing these sources of support given my current working relationships with each of these investigators. Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ has served as a senior mentor for my career development and Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ has worked with me to integrate aspects of the *UCSF* \_\_\_\_\_ with that of \_\_\_\_\_. We all share the common interest of developing UCSF expertise in \_\_\_\_\_. This collaborative environment strengthens the application and adds confidence that Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ will have the resources and opportunities needed to support his/her transition to independence.

In closing, I would like to highlight that Dr. Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ is a unique individual who is an accomplished \_\_\_\_\_ and has now chosen to master principles of \_\_\_\_\_ with a long-term goal of integrating these disciplines and becoming an outstanding clinician-researcher addressing \_\_\_\_\_. He/She has developed and initiated a protocol that will provide a foundation for this work. I am confident that he/she will successfully transition to K23 funding and become an outstanding colleague at UCSF. It is with pleasure that I provide my highest level of recommendation.

Sincerely,

.....

Title

Division \_\_\_\_\_ and Department \_\_\_\_\_

Date

RE: Application of Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ for UCSF CFAR Mentored Scientist Award in HIV/AIDS

Dear RAP Committee:

I am pleased to provide this strong letter of support for Dr. \_\_\_\_\_'s application for a Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) Mentored Scientist Award. Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ is a X-year research-track fellow in the Division \_\_\_\_\_ who has chosen to focus on issues related to \_\_\_\_\_. He/She has tremendous potential to develop into a successful junior faculty member in his/her area of interest, especially if he/she develops the necessary preliminary data. Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ is an outstanding candidate for the Mentored Scientist Award.

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ came to UCSF for residency after graduating in the top of his/her class at \_\_\_\_\_. While in medical school he/she received a summer research stipend that resulted in a successful publication on patient-physician communication in the \_\_\_\_\_ setting and stimulated his/her interest in working as a clinician-researcher. As a resident he/she focused on clinical skills and was highly regarded for his/her knowledge base and dedication to patients. After residency, he/she worked as a Clinical Instructor in the \_\_\_\_\_ division and gained further skills and exposure to clinical research in \_\_\_\_\_ while working for Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ on his/her \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ study. Subsequently, he/she joined the Division \_\_\_\_\_ as a fellow where/ she has built upon his/her prior skills to conduct research at the intersection of \_\_\_\_\_.

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_'s proposed project of studying \_\_\_\_\_ is critically important to the fields of \_\_\_\_\_. The topic is timely, given the large changes occurring in the \_\_\_\_\_. This study will provide a basis for future studies in this population targeting interventions that prevent the development of \_\_\_\_\_. To ensure the project's success he/she has assembled an outstanding team of mentors, from both the Divisions \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, led by Dr. \_\_\_\_\_. Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ is a board-certified \_\_\_\_\_ who has built a successful research career studying \_\_\_\_\_ and has mentored Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ on several projects throughout his/her first year of fellowship, including most recently an invited review for \_\_\_\_\_. He/She has also gained expertise in \_\_\_\_\_ and outcomes for the project by partnering with Dr. \_\_\_\_\_, whose research focuses on \_\_\_\_\_. Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ has contributed both \_\_\_\_\_- and cohort resources to ensure the project's success.

The Department \_\_\_\_\_ is committed to providing Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ the supportive environment needed for him/her to succeed during his/her fellowship training. Although the first half of DATE, he/she will continue to have clinical duties as part of his/her \_\_\_\_\_ clinical training, for the remainder of the year and into DATE he/she will have 80% time dedicated solely to research. He/She will have salary support and other research support through June DATE on the \_\_\_\_\_ training grant as he/she applies for a K23 award. Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ also has dedicated office space and other necessary resources to conduct a successful project. The Division \_\_\_\_\_, in support of this project, has already allotted \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ for project initiation. Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ has also contributed significant resources within the \_\_\_\_\_- infrastructure including research assistant support.

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ is an ideal candidate for this award. He/She has proposed an innovative project that applies principles of \_\_\_\_\_. This topic is highly important and has a high likelihood to lead to independent funding. His/Her dedication to this subject, strong work ethic, and a dedicated team of mentors ensure that this project will succeed.

Sincerely,  
....., degree  
Title  
Position and Dept/Div