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RE: Dr. Levi Usende Ifukibot

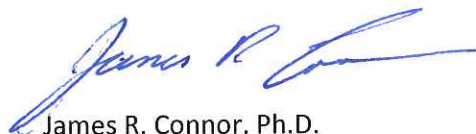
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to provide you with my evaluation of Levi Usende who spent approximately two months in my laboratory this year. Levi was simply exceptional. His level of dedication to learning and his enthusiasm for research are exemplary. His insights into the experiments he was performing (including the experimental design) and the data he generated demonstrate that he can and should be given the opportunity to develop as a gifted scientist. The amount of time he spent in the laboratory and the voracious appetite he displayed for being exposed to and developing a working knowledge of as many techniques as possible was an inspiration to my research team. The data he generated are exciting and should result in publications in top quality journals. Moreover, the project begins to address a significant health problem in Nigeria.

On a personal note, Levi is an exceptional young man. He is pleasant and interesting. My laboratory consists of about 15 people and Levi was liked by all and developed some very nice friendships. He is a good man.

In summary, the CAEN program has made a wise choice to invest in the future of this young man. Levi has the skills, intellect and desire to become a strong independent scientist. I sincerely hope that he and I have the opportunity for additional interaction.

Sincerely



James R. Connor, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor of Neurosurgery, Neural and
Behavioral Science, and Pediatrics
Vice-Chair of Neurosurgery
Director, Center for Aging and Neurodegenerative Diseases