



**Department of Pediatrics
Division of Allergy & Immunology**

December 9, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

It gives me great pleasure to write this letter of support on behalf of Katalin Olasz.

I am Division Chief and Robert A. Good Chair of Pediatrics at University of South Florida (USF) at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital. In the period of 2013-2016 I also served as Director of Pediatric Immunodeficiency Program and Associate Pediatrician at Massachusetts General Hospital for Children and a full-time faculty at Harvard Medical School. I conducted research in Boston Children's Hospital, Massachusetts General for Children and at my current location at University of South Florida at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital. Our hospital has had long tradition of diagnosing and treating the most vulnerable patients with primary immunodeficiencies and serve as a referral center of excellence in Florida and beyond. We have been leaders in offering cutting edge diagnosis and hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, and in training undergraduate, medical students, residents and fellows on immunodeficiencies.

Katalin is a 19 year-old student who attended Fazekas High School, a top institution in Budapest, Hungary where outstanding students train and continue in academic and scientific path. I first met Katalin during the summer of 2017 when she visited our Children's Research Institute (CRI) in St. Petersburg, Florida. The CRI is a multidisciplinary research center focused on basic mechanisms of immune-mediated diseases. In addition, Katalin shadowed me in my specialty clinic where she could encounter patients with a broad array of immunological and allergic diseases. Her deep interest in basic and translation research was beyond what I previously experienced in her age level. She has observed and comprehended well high-throughput cloning and learned about B cell tolerance mechanisms in the laboratory and parallel had exposure to patients with B cell and combined immunodeficiencies in the hospital. A

Although Katalin was only an upcoming senior in high school, she immediately impressed me with her mature thinking and determination to become a medical researcher. Katalin is motivated and hard-working, dedicated, personable, and highly enthusiastic. In the laboratory, she communicated effectively with my team. I have no doubt that she will be an excellent physician-scientist and work well in a team.

We would be glad to have her visit us again in the future to get further exposure to basic and translational science and clinical work. It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I offer my highest support for her application. Please let me know if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Jolan Walter, MD, PhD

Robert A. Good Chair, Associate Professor, Pediatrics & Medicine
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