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To whom it may concern,

My student Joshua H. Baker is currently pursuing his Master's degree in Anatomy, and has worked with me at the Sleep Research & Treatment Center for 13 months. During his time working with me, Joshua completed his Master's thesis proposal, which involved our collaboration on the design of a specific course of research for fulfillment of his master's degree. Based upon his interest in medicine, behavioral sciences and sleep, I chose a specific project that could strengthen his current knowledge and give him the opportunity to bridge sleep disorders, neurophysiologic measures, and immune system outcomes in a population-based cohort study of adolescents. Joshua was able to complete this project and present his ideas, including some preliminary data, to his Master's thesis committee of which I am part of.

His persistent work has culminated in a paper titled "*Insomnia symptoms with objective short sleep duration are associated with systemic inflammation in adolescents*" and published in *Brain Behavior and Immunity* (doi: 10.1016/j.bbi.2016.12.026). As primary investigator and first author on this paper, I can assure that Joshua played a significant role in each step of the preparation of the above mentioned manuscript, including data analysis, interpretation of results, and writing of the article. His significant contribution was recognized as second authorship. As mentioned above, preliminary data of the work enclosed in this manuscript was part of his Master's thesis proposal and, therefore, is commensurate with the goals and specific aims planned for his thesis.

Thus, without any hesitation, I give permission to Joshua to use the manuscript "*Insomnia symptoms with objective short sleep duration are associated with systemic inflammation in adolescents*" for partial fulfillment of his Master's thesis. If there are any further questions regarding Joshua's involvement feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

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