**2024-2025 PSYCHIATRY STANDARDIZED LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

Applicant

Name: Ana Lee

ERAS ID: 5678

[x]  The applicant has waived their right to view this letter, and this was discussed with them.

Letter writer

Name: Elliot Reid Dorian, MD

Title: Assistant Professor, Clerkship Director

Institution or Organization: Sacred Heart Hospital School of Medicine

Contact information: Elliot.reid@sacredheart.edu

The number of medical students you worked with in the past year: approx. 130

Provide a brief description of your relationship to the applicant such as clinical supervisor (observership, clerkship, elective) vs. research mentor, and include the duration of time worked together.

**250 Character Max**

I worked with Ms. Lee for two weeks during her psychiatry clerkship on our consult liaison service. I also worked with Ms. Lee on a case report which is currently under review.

Part 1:

Please use specific examples to describe the applicant’s qualities.

**Qualities: CHOOSE ONE OR MORE** (1) Communication/interpersonal skills (2) Interest/motivation for psychiatry (3) Teachability (open to and learns from feedback) (4) Honesty (5) Capacity to reflect/self-awareness.

**1000 Character Max**

Ms. Lee showed all these qualities. Her strongest was her passion for psychiatry. Ms. Lee was eager to see as many patients as possible. She was the first to arrive each morning and was the last to leave, taking on any additional duties. She would bring relevant articles to share with our team. Ms. Lee initiated a case report from our patient, currently under review with *The Primary Care Companion*. She is President of our Psychiatry Student Interest Group, where she has been active since starting medical school.

She also has strength in her ability to self-reflect and recognize when she needs supervision. During her rotation with me, she treated a South Asian patient who was older. As she interviewed him, though we didn’t see it, she recognized within herself that his world views and personality qualities were causing her to have negative countertransference. She recognized that as a fellow South Asian, this patient may have cultural differences that serve as a barrier to receiving psychiatric care. She sought supervision and used what she gained from this supervision to navigate her countertransference and the patient’s reluctance to treatment expertly.

Part 2:

Please use specific examples to describe the applicant’s clinical skills. Non-clinical letter writers should comment on these or similar skills in the context of their work environment.

**Clinical Skills: CHOOSE ONE OR MORE** (1) Ability to develop rapport with patients (2) Ability to work well in a clinical team (3) Ability to take a psychiatric history (4) Ability to perform a mental status exam (5) Ability to perform appropriate triage of medical and psychiatric urgent/emergent issues.

**1000 Character Max**

Ms. Lee demonstrated all these skills while on her audition rotation with me. Of these skills, her ability to build rapport with her patients is one of her best skills. She is very aware of privilege and cultural formulation and uses that, as well as her general demeanor, to quickly build rapport with patients. She also has a keen sense of when to delve deeper into a patient’s response and when a patient can hear a recommendation or interpretation. This is a rare skill in a student at her level of training and will serve her well.

Another clinical skill Dr. Lee displayed during her rotation was her ability to work in a clinical team. She is a team player not only with her resident and I, but also with our entire team. She showed respect and interest in every team member including the social workers and advanced practice providers. She often asked everyone on the team questions, and when she was finished with her work, she would ask others if there was anything that she could do to help them with their clinical work. Her team spirit also meant that she often looked up articles and guidelines so that she was able to make the best plan for her patients.

Part 3:

**Summarize the applicant’s preparedness/suitability for psychiatric residency.**

Address such topics as:

* Characteristics that make this applicant unique relative to other applicants, such as their sense of duty, teamwork, perseverance, and ability to handle adversity.
* A description of how much guidance this applicant may need as they begin residency in comparison to their peers.
* Any additional information about the applicant you feel would be useful for program directors.

**1000 Character Max**

Ms. Lee was nervous during her rotation with us and disclosed that this was because she felt like she had a mark against her because she had to repeat her first year of medical school. We counselled her that we know people struggle at times and once we told her that we cared about how she grew from the experience and that people often learn more from when they fail than from when they succeed. Once she internalized that, she grew enormously and became one of the strongest students clinically I have ever worked with. Given support and structure, Ms. Lee has the work ethic and tenacity to become an all-star resident.



**Signature and date:**

Elliot Reid Dorian, MD

Assistant Professor

Clerkship Director

Department of Psychiatry

Sacred Heart School of Medicine