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Re letter of recommendation for Dr. Patricia Jones

Urbana, June 24, 2019

It gives me great pleasure to recommend Dr. Patricia Jones for the SPaRC Outstanding Service Award. Dr. Jones is the Associate Director for Research at the Beckman Institute and plays a vital role in our intellectual community and represents the very best (among many remarkably talented!) research administrators at the University of Illinois. I have known Dr. Jones for 8 years and she has served as Project Manager on several of our grants and contracts, including a large multi-year contract funded by IARPA (+\$12M). For this 4 year project, she helped hire, manage, and direct almost 100 staff members at the Beckman Institute, including undergraduate research assistants, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, research scientists, and faculty. She demonstrated outstanding administrative skills, inspiring our team through effective leadership, principled, fair, and transparent decision making, and excellent management of the program objectives, deliverables, and timeline. The scope, scale, and demands of this project were very rigorous and required weekly teleconferences with IARPA, regular site visits, trips to DC to present our progress to IARPA, presentations at the White House BRAIN Initiative, and more! Throughout this extremely demanding project, Dr. Jones never wavered, always leading by example and consistently demonstrating a high level of foresight and critical thinking skills, balanced with practical know-how and a willingness to pitch in whenever and wherever needed. I cannot emphasize how impressed I have been by her leadership and how all of our success at the Beckman Institute – and even our ability to write grant proposals and coordinate the logistics of multi-site grant submissions! – fundamentally depended on her leadership and contributions. She has played a leadership role in multiple grants and contracts from our group at the Beckman Institute, including projects sponsored by IARPA, DARPA, AFRL, and the White House BRAIN Initiative. In short, Dr. Jones is the most outstanding research administrator I have had the pleasure to work with (including my 8 years at Illinois and experience at the NIH and Georgetown). Dr. Jones is indeed a gem on our campus and we are very fortunate to have her with us! It is with my strongest enthusiasm and support that I offer this letter on behalf of Dr. Jones. I believe she is the ideal awardee for the SPaRC Outstanding Service Award and hope you agree with this judgment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Barbey'.



BECKMAN INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

405 N. Mathews Ave., MC-251
Urbana, IL 61801-2325

July 5, 2019

Dear SPaRC Committee:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Patricia Jones for the SPaRC Outstanding Service Award. As the Associate Director of Research, Patty consistently demonstrates her leadership in promoting collaborative, interdisciplinary research at the Beckman Institute. She has positively impacted people, projects, and services in support of university research.

Patty's scientific knowledge, along with her networking and communication abilities, have allowed her to connect researchers across various disciplines with each other, when otherwise their paths may not have crossed. During proposal planning stages, faculty members have benefitted from Patty's expertise to strengthen their project teams, allowing project leadership to maximize their opportunity to secure project funding.

Patty participates in large, complex proposals submitted through the Beckman Institute, effectively serving as a liaison between faculty, Beckman administrative support staff, Beckman research service centers (the Biomedical Imaging Center and the Imaging Technology Group) and central campus units. The Beckman Grants Team benefits from her organization and experience on required proposal documents while faculty benefit from her scientific and technical insights. She has a unique ability to bridge knowledge or communication gaps between the different proposal participants.

Patty continues her support in various roles during the post-award phase of Beckman research projects. She has interacted with or served on committees with multiple research-supporting units across campus including the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, the Office for the Protection of Research Subjects, and Sponsored Programs Administration. She also has proposed and/or served in a project management role on large, complex projects including an IARPA-funded project led by Dr. Aron Barbey. This required her oversight and involvement in financial reports, in project timelines, and in risk management.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelli Wendt".

Kelli Wendt
Director of Budget and Resource Planning
Beckman Institute for Advanced Science & Technology

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July 11, 2019

RE: Patty Jones for SPaRC Outstanding Service Award

Dear Colleagues,

I have had the privilege over the last two years to become an affiliate of the Beckman Institute and work with Patty Jones on several grant proposals to the Carver Foundation and National Science Foundation. These were intended to support the Molecule Maker Lab, which is a first-of-its-kind automated synthesis facility to be housed at the Beckman Institute.

Patty led writing efforts for these proposals with tremendous efficiency, clear communication and energy, coordinating among a diverse team of investigators including myself, including Marty Burke (Chemistry), Charles Schroeder (Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering), and Jian Peng (Computer Science). Since there was also a significant renovation component to these proposals, Patty also coordinated with Beckman facilities and business office staff to develop space and cost recovery plans.

Patty has unique skills in communicating needs of a project and following up with busy participants to be sure that time-critical needs are met. She organized the meetings, often coordinating conference calls with team members on the road, and she pushed everyone to meet the deadlines. Beyond that, Patty took initiative to rewrite sections of text from one proposal (Carver) to meet the space requirements of the NSF, and she interacted with graphics artists to make the figures visually appealing and effective. Finally, she collected dozens of letters from collaborating scientists and outreach contacts in order to strengthen the broader impacts aspects of the proposal.

I am not sure if this \$15M proposal to NSF will be funded on this attempt, but if it is, it will be in no small part to Patty's perseverance, skill and care in guiding the proposal to completion. If the proposal is not funded, I am sure she will be ready to lead the next attempt later this year.

These activities are representative of Patty's excellence which also extends to management of facilities and interactions with Beckman affiliates and users to ensure the best possible research environment. She has my strongest endorsement for the SPaRC Outstanding Service Award!

Sincerely,



Chad M. Rienstra

July 11, 2019

Sponsored Programs and Research Compliance
RE: SPaRC Outstanding Service Award

Dear SPaRC Awards Committee:

Patricia “Patty” Jones consistently demonstrates outstanding service in support of research administration at Illinois and is an excellent candidate for the SPaRC Outstanding Service Award. Her contributions reach far beyond the Beckman Institute where she serves as the associate director for research. Although my letter stresses the impact Patty has had at Beckman, it is worth mentioning just a few of her campus roles: she serves as chair of Institutional Review Board #2 (Biomedical), she was the founding administrator for the Campus Facility Managers Working Group, and she co-hosted the November 2018 Human Subjects Research Conference with the Office for the Protection of Research Subjects.

At the Beckman Institute, Patty understands the institute’s research mission and plays a key role in guiding and reshaping its evolution. She has expert knowledge and experience in team science – theory and practice – and deeply understands the institute’s research enterprise. Patty efficiently and accurately responds to the large volume of information that flows through the office. She executes day-to-day tasks with consistency, reliability and professionalism. Patty also thinks strategically and creatively about putting collaboration into action, including helping to recruit new faculty to campus and to the institute. Patty prepares herself for success by staying up-to-date on funding opportunities. She participates in proposal writing to the satisfaction and delight of Beckman faculty and uses resources to fill in gaps and become knowledgeable of relevant background information. Patty brings purpose and focus to Beckman’s research community; her knowledge is a tremendous resource for the Beckman Institute Director and for the Beckman Institute faculty.

Much that goes on in Beckman and across campus is under constant flux. Patty manages these dynamics with poise and professionalism while actively and instinctively seeking information to position the institute for change. Patty handles the high volume of correspondence and data relevant to Beckman’s research mission with attention to detail. She uses her network of campus-wide connections to help keep the institute informed of current campus events and keep the campus informed about Beckman. Across campus, Beckman is viewed as a well-run enterprise, in great part because of Patty’s leadership.

The Beckman Institute’s members are well served by Patty’s ambitious direction. Patty has guided the director on numerous research and personnel decisions and represented the institute on numerous occasions. Her standards for excellence are recognized and appreciated. She is respected

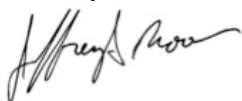
for her decisiveness, scholarship, and action. Patty oversees Beckman's core facilities and assigned space and has helped develop new core facilities like the Molecule Maker Lab and an SPR / Molecular Interactions Facility. Researchers all across campus (e.g., Chad Rienstra) appreciate her diligence and hold her up as a shining example of Illinois' best.

Patty is a forward thinker and task-oriented planner: she does not procrastinate! Her planning skills keep her sharp and ready to respond swiftly and decisively (e.g., being involved in decisions related to our external review process and preparation, strategic planning, staff hiring, the acquisition of our 9.4T animal scanner, the Carle-Illinois Letter of Intent for the 7T MRI, the NSF MRI proposal, the Molecule Maker Lab proposal, the surface plasmon resonance facility, and the MRI review to name a few highlights from last year). Patty is quick to prepare thoughtful first drafts of documents (e.g., financial sections in the annual campus/foundation report) with exceptional organization and is proficient at polishing final drafts of important documents using her outstanding proofreading skills. The Beckman Institute certainly reaps the benefits of Patty's involvement in critical projects.

Patty is also a strong Beckman and campus team player. She takes initiative to manage staff and work through challenges using her skills (e.g., communicating effectively, offering assistance without being asked, willingly taking on assignments and challenging tasks, and accepting decisions even if they run counter to her views). Patty encourages others, she expresses gratitude for being a part of the team, and she shares credit even when she has done most of the work! The quality of Patty's work is consistently high and error free and she follows tasks through to completion while keeping the director informed of issues relevant to the institute's mission. Patty brings a valuable set of attributes to the institute's amazing team, and I am thankful for all she does.

I have only begun to scratch the surface for what Patty Jones has brought to Beckman. Through these activities and the many roles she serves for campus research, I am proud to nominate Patty Jones for the 2019 SPaRC Outstanding Service Award.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey S. Moore, Director