Pre-Health Professions Advisory Committee:

I have been asked by Ms. Maryann Abogunde to supply a letter of recommendation in support of her application for professional training in medicine. I have known Maryann for two years, as her teacher and her independent research advisor.

Maryann started an independent research project in my mouse genetics laboratory two summers ago, before she registered for any academic credit. I usually do not accept students into my research program before they have had a course or two with me, but Maryann was very insistent. Maryann quickly mastered the standard techniques in my lab, and was soon pioneering new techniques. Her novel approach to rapidly scoring single-base polymorphisms in our large mapping panel soon reduced the number of gene candidates for the mouse mshi mutation from 19 to only 7. Maryann taught her protocol to several other students working on this project as well as to several more students working in other labs on distinct projects.

Maryann continued her research the following semester, which involved DNA sequence analysis to discover the cause of the mshi mutation (an inherited form of male sterility displayed by some mice in our colony at CCSU). For this project, Maryann developed a new protocol for amplifying and purifying DNA amplimers for sequence analysis, and used this approach to analyze half of the exons in our new top candidate gene, Bclaf1. Maryann made a formal presentation of her research results last spring at the 59th Annual Eastern Colleges Science Conference (held at CCSU).

This semester I have Maryann in my Genetics class. She is a serious and hard-working student. Maryann is also an important member of our department, where she often helps struggling students to master difficult material in chemistry, biology, math or physics. In addition she is an officer in the Biology Club, and frequently supports educational outreach to area middle schools as part of the Partners in Science and Great Explorations Science programs.

Based on her research, course work, and service to the department and area communities, I find Maryann Abogunde to be an excellent candidate for professional training in medicine, and I believe that she will benefit greatly from the preparation that you program will offer.
If I can be of any further assistance to you, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. King, Ph.D.
Biomolecular Sciences