INDIANA UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR NEUROIMAGING
Department of Radiology and Imaging Sciences

January 11, 2011

Selection Committee
Glenn W. Irwin, Jr., M.D. Research Scholar Award
IUPUI

RE: Christopher J. McDougle, M.D.

Dear Members of the Irwin Award Committee:

It is my distinct pleasure to recommend Professor Christopher McDougle for the 2011 Irwin Award. I understand that the Irwin Award is IUPUI's highest level recognition for outstanding research and related contributions and that a candidate must have a record of sustained research productivity and grant support, and a substantial impact on their field leading to a national/international reputation.

I have known Dr. McDougle since I moved to Indiana University School of Medicine (IUSM) in late 2006 and we have served together on the leadership council for the IU Health Neuroscience Center of Excellence (NCOE) that has been actively planning the new neuroscience campus over the past few years. We have had frequent contact related to numerous research initiatives and faculty recruitments.

Dr. McDougle is presently the Albert Eugene Sterne Professor and Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at the Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis. He has served as Chair of Psychiatry since 2000. In brief, Dr. McDougle is an IU School of Medicine trained physician and Yale residency trained academic psychiatrist. He completed a post-doctoral research fellowship at the NIMH Biological Sciences Training Program and then served as a faculty member of the Department of Psychiatry at Yale University rising to the rank of associate professor before returning to IU in 1997 as Professor and Assistant Chairman of Psychiatry.

I believe that Dr. McDougle clearly meets the Irwin Award criteria. He has an extensive record of publications and productivity in high quality journals (over 150 original research reports and over 100 review articles and chapters) and serves on the editorial board for multiple top tier journals in his field. He has been a reviewer for dozens of others. He has been an investigator on federal grants for two decades and has been the principal investigator or project leader on multiple major projects in the field of autism research and related topics during this period. Dr. McDougle has won numerous prestigious awards for teaching, research and professional contributions throughout his career to date, as well as visiting professorships and named lectureships. He has been highly sought after as a reviewer of NIH and foundation grant applications. He has also mentored numerous trainees over the years. These accomplishments and more demonstrate his international reputation as a leader in research on autism and as an educator of academic and clinical psychiatrists and research scientists.

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I will not attempt to more fully summarize the extensive accomplishments described in Dr. McDougle's Curriculum Vitae, which numbers 105 pages in length, but I will highlight several key issues that I believe make him extraordinarily well-qualified for and deserving of the Glenn W. Irwin Award.

Dr. McDougle has greatly enhanced the research reputation of the Department of Psychiatry at IUSM through his own NIH and foundation supported research programs in autism and child psychopharmacology as well as through tireless mentoring and recruitment of new clinician scientists and researchers. His own research program has made major contributions toward understanding the treatment of autism, a major public health problem and personal tragedy for many families. His work has also contributed to an improved understanding of the pathophysiology and genetics of autism, although much work remains in this highly active research arena. In addition, he has participated in studies of health care service delivery and outcomes, reflecting the breadth of his contributions. At a time of great stress for psychiatry departments nationally, Dr. McDougle has grown and the IU department and positioned its course in a strong research and training oriented direction. As mentioned above, he has also been a key participant in planning for the new transdisciplinary Neuroscience Center of Excellence in collaboration with leaders from other clinical and basic science departments. This reflects his strong leadership and investment in the future of our institution.

In summary, I am delighted to provide my most enthusiastic recommendation for Dr. Christopher McDougle for the Glenn W. Irwin Scholar Award. In addition to his numerous accomplishments at IU, he has made sustained and powerful contributions to the field of Child Psychiatry and autism research earning him an international reputation as a leader in these areas. I hope the Committee will give Professor McDougle most serious consideration for this well-earned and prestigious distinction.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Saykin, PsyD, ABPP/ABCN
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