INDIANA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Paul & Carole Stark Neurosciences Research Institute

Gerry S. Oxford, Ph.D. - Executive Director

January 6, 2011

Glenn W. Irwin, Jr. Research Scholar Award Committee
IUPUI
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Colleagues:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in strong support of the nomination of Dr. Christopher J. McDougle for the Glenn W. Irwin, Jr., M.D. Research Scholar Award for 2011. His nomination by Dr. John Nurnberger, Jr. is both appropriate and timely and I am honored to provide my perspective on Chris's contributions that make him a strong candidate for the award.

I have had the privilege of knowing and working with Chris since my arrival at IU School of Medicine in 2003. I first got to know Chris as a member of the search committee for my position and have since worked with him on numerous committees in the school and have engaged in co-recruitment of faculty between his department and our institute. We have served together for the past 3 years on the IU-Clarian Neuroscience Executive Council where we have worked on the development of a new model for translational research and healthcare in the neurosciences that will be anchored by two new buildings beginning construction next month. Chris has been a terrific administrative colleague and a voice of reason in this endeavor. You might ask why I reflect on this quality in support for an award for scholarship. Simply put, the potential for expansion of translational research across the IU Health system and thus expanded opportunity for scholarly productivity is a direct result of Chris's efforts at promoting such opportunities for everyone, not merely his own excellent efforts.

Chris has been the Chair of Psychiatry at IUSM since 2000 where he also serves as Executive Director of the Institute for Psychiatric Research, a renowned institute housing investigators in various neuropsychiatric disorders. During this time, Chris has published 82 (out of 156 total) peer-reviewed papers in outstanding journals, 78 reviews and book chapters, and 106 scientific abstracts; quite impressive productivity for someone with critical clinical and administrative responsibilities! He currently is the principal investigator on 3 separate NIH R01 grants and co-investigator on an additional two grants. This funding is in addition to multiple foundation grants and industry supported clinical trials. This level of funding is again extraordinary for someone with his ongoing non-research responsibilities and a mark of both his stature and his commitment to his research program.

While Chris began his research efforts in adult disorders, he moved into neurodevelopmental disorders and his long-standing research efforts in autism and Fragile X syndrome have gained wide attention in clinical neuroscience. This is evidenced by his many invitations to lecture across the US, perhaps most notably his honor of giving the inaugural Daniel X. and Mary Freedman Fellowship Commemorative Lecture in Academic Psychiatry at Yale University in 2008. He has been asked to serve on many NIH review panels over the years and currently is on

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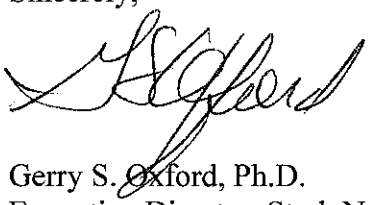
the editorial board of 6 journals and is Associate Editor of *The Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. Chris is clearly one of the most respected clinical researchers in autism spectrum disorders and, as such, is a tremendous asset to the reputation of the research enterprise of Indiana University.

In summary, while the accomplishments of Chris McDougle in research speak for themselves, it is the commitment and dedication to that scholarship only perceived in personally interacting with him that is the most relevant qualification for receiving this award. I encourage you to consider his nomination seriously and hope you will grant him this honor.

Sincerely,



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