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Kelly Smith

Post-Doctoral Fellow

July 22, 2019

Re: F31 Support Letter

Dear Ruby,

It would be my pleasure to offer support in your proposed experiments. Electrophysiology will be a great technique to add to your experimental repertoire and I am excited to contribute to this aspect of your project.

My graduate work in Dr Brett Grahams lab at the University of Newcastle (Australia) gave me extensive experience in whole cell patch clamp electrophysiology in spinal cord slices and I will be happy to provide support during these experiments. Specifically, my graduate work used whole cell patch clamp electrophysiology in combination with pharmacology, optogenetics and *post hoc* analysis of neuron morphology to understand sensory processing in the spinal cord. I have continued using these techniques in Dr Ross's lab and I am very excited to be able to offer you training and support in these techniques as well as data analysis and interpretation.

I am really excited to see you project progress, I think it will give us valuable insight into how sensory information is processed within the central nervous system and will be the first work to show specific connectivity of MOR+ RVM neurons in the dorsal horn. Further, the experimental techniques proposed in your grant will be valuable as you continue further into your career.

Working with you so far has been an absolute pleasure and I look forward to helping you throughout your degree.

Sincerely,

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

Kelly Smith, PhD
Pittsburgh Centre for Pain Research
University of Pittsburgh