



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

School of Dentistry
Department of Oral Health Sciences

June 26, 2012

William T. Grant Scholars Program Selection Committee

Re: Nominating Statement for Donald Chi, DDS, PhD

Statement must include a guarantee that at least 50 percent of the applicant's paid time will be devoted to research.

Dear Review Committee:

I enthusiastically support Dr. Donald Chi's revised application for the William T. Grant Scholars Program. Dr. Chi is currently a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Oral Health Sciences (OHS) at the University of Washington. Dr. Chi will have **at least 75 percent protected time** for research.

Dr. Chi came to the University of Washington as a dental student and demonstrated the admirable qualities of drive and passion for oral health research and public service. As a dental student, he worked on multiple research projects with our departmental faculty, took elective classes in biostatistics, and he established a student-run night clinic for homeless adolescents. In fact, the homeless clinic he established seven years ago continues to thrive, drawing University of Washington faculty and dental students as volunteers and providing an important service for homeless youth in Seattle. It was clear he had the potential to become an outstanding faculty member. After leaving the University of Washington, he went to the University of Iowa where he received advanced clinical education in both Pediatric Dentistry and Dental Public Health. He also received a PhD in Oral Health Services Research. Having observed Dr. Chi's work ethic and discussed his vision and commitment to a research career emphasizing the prevention and reduction of health disparities, I feel confident that he will become a successful and productive independent investigator.

Statement should describe why the applicant was selected

The Department of Oral Health Sciences (OHS) is an interdisciplinary, research-intensive unit that has expertise in dental public health, behavioral sciences, biostatistics, epidemiology, clinical research and oral biology. Many OHS faculty members have joint or adjunct appointments in disciplines in Public Health, Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Psychology. The environment within the Department along with the strength of our ties to the larger campus and the School of Public Health will be of great benefit to Dr. Chi's continuing scholarly development. There is a critical need for highly qualified clinician-scholars committed to pursuing an academic research career. Furthermore, there is a compelling need to strengthen the bridge between public health sciences and dentistry because I believe this is the best strategy to improve oral health and reduce disparities. Dr. Chi is ideally suited to be a clinician-scholar working at the interface between public health and dentistry, an area where there is an unfortunate shortage of well-trained faculty.

The applicant's current and expected future roles in the division

We believe our University and Department are well-equipped to nurture his academic and research career development as he has described in his clear and well-written application. This career development award will provide Dr. Chi with the necessary funding to develop a successful independent research program and policymaking career. Our departmental faculty agree to fully support Dr. Chi and provide him with the environment and protected time needed to carry out his

research plan and work toward achieving independence as a clinical scientist. The Department will provide space and facilities for Dr. Chi in support of his award. Dr. Chi has a state-funded, tenure-track faculty position which provides 80% of his annual salary (*insert the amount of the applicant's annual full-time salary here*). The remainder of his salary comes from a K08 Career Development Award from NIH.

- Appointment, promotion, institutional support plans for the applicant
- the supporting resources available;
- the applicant's current source and amount of salary

Dr. Chi has proposed a unique, transdisciplinary research plan that is logical in its progression toward independence. Consistent with William T. Grant Foundation priorities, his work focuses on how neighborhood settings impact adolescent oral health, with a focus on Medicaid-enrolled adolescents. There are considerable gaps in our understanding of how best to reduce oral health disparities in this population which underscores the importance of the proposed work.

An assessment of the applicant's plan

Dr. Chi has assembled a mentorship team with a wealth of experience and knowledge to help him carry out his research plan. He has chosen as his primary mentor Dr. David Takeuchi, a Professor and Dean for Research at the University of Washington, School of Social Work. Dr. Takeuchi is a discipline-trained sociologist who will provide methods-related expertise in the intersecting areas of disparities, social capital, and health. Dr. Takeuchi has an admirable track record of mentoring young faculty members. In addition, Dr. Chi has recruited Dr. Kyle Crowder, Professor of Sociology at the University of Washington, who has expertise in neighborhoods and health. Dr. Crowder will provide additional discipline-based expertise on settings as an important health determinant and how to account for settings in developing interventions. The third member of Dr. Chi's mentorship team is Dr. Mitch Greenlick, a member of the Oregon State House of Representatives and a health services researcher. Dr. Greenlick is another excellent policymaker-scientist with extensive experience mentoring junior investigators interested in policy. This is a terrific team to guide and support Dr. Chi's research career development and to help Dr. Chi develop expertise in policymaking.

I will work closely with Drs. Takeuchi, Crowder, and Greenlick to ensure that Dr. Chi receives additional leadership training that maximizes his exposure to policy analysis and development. For instance, I participated in the American Dental Education Association's Leadership Institute. This is a program designed to train dental school faculty how to properly navigate the policy arena and to manage large organizations. This program is perfectly suited for Dr. Chi's development as a clinician-scientist. I plan to nominate Dr. Chi for this Leadership Institute while he is an Assistant Professor.

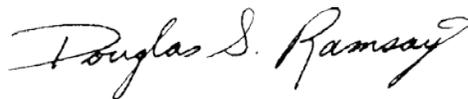
Describe the applicant's current and expected future roles in the division

Dr. Chi's drive, ambition, and talents have positioned him well to eventually direct the NIH-funded Northwest Center to Reduce Oral Health Disparities, which is housed in our department and currently directed by Dr. Peter Milgrom. Drs. Milgrom and Chi have been working together to lay out a clear succession plan. With a competitive renewal scheduled in two years, Dr. Chi will play a key leadership role in preparing this center renewal grant and setting research priorities for the center.

I strongly believe Dr. Chi has the potential to become a productive independent clinical investigator. This Award provides an important opportunity to prepare Dr. Chi to assume the role of one of the leading oral health researchers in our country and the world. I truly expect great things from Donald. He is a bright, hard-working, passionate individual who has good values and great interpersonal skills. As Chair, I offer my full support to this William T. Grant Scholars Program proposal.

Please contact me if you would like any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas S. Ramsay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Douglas S. Ramsay, DMD, PhD, MSD
Professor and Chair, Department of Oral Health Sciences
Professor of Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry
Adjunct Professor of Psychology

June 23, 2014

W.T. Grant Scholars Selection Committee
W.T. Grant Foundation

Dear Colleagues,

It is my distinct pleasure to write in support of Dr. Leah Doane, who has applied for the W.T. Grant Scholars Program for early career researchers in social, behavioral, and health sciences. Dr. Doane is the ideal candidate for this program. She is an innovative early career scholar who has already demonstrated impressive prowess as a research scientist, but has a plan to expand her focal interests and skills in several new conceptual and methodological directions that are certain to create important new perspectives that integrate culture, developmental processes, and health behavior. We are excited for the opportunities that the W.T. Grant Scholars Program would provide for Dr. Doane, and will outline below the reasons why she is uniquely positioned to take advantage of all that the program offers.

Statement
should
describe why
the applicant
was selected

Even a quick look at Dr. Doane's CV shows that she has an impressive academic pedigree, and has had an outstanding start to her career at ASU. Having completed her fourth year on faculty, she has amassed a notable publication record (20 papers in refereed journals, with two more under review). Most of the work has appeared since she began her position at ASU, and the journals represent some of the most highly regarded in the field. She was honored with the Young Investigator Award from the International Society of Psychoneuroendocrinology in 2009, and was elected to the executive committee of Division 7 at APA. Certainly, she is beginning to build a reputation for excellence and commitment in the field. There is no doubt whatsoever that Dr. Doane can perform the work proposed in the application, and do so with an exceptional level of scholarship.

Dr. Doane's area of expertise broadly addresses important issues in adolescence and the transition to adulthood, focusing specifically on stress responses that influence physiological and psychological health and well-being during this critical developmental period. This matches particularly well with major strategic initiatives here at ASU and nationally, but Dr. Doane proposes to expand her focus to incorporate more critical cultural perspectives on the developmental processes she studies. Her application emphasizes Latino youth and the academic inequalities they face, especially in the transition to higher education contexts. This is a critically important, and understudied issue. Further, her proposal to the Scholars Program engages efforts to develop even more sophisticated methodological approaches toward this area of study, by focusing on novel mixed methods that integrate across qualitative interview, momentary assessment, physiological markers, and health behavior reports. Such an approach represents a complex set of tools, the integration of which presents a notable methodological challenge for the field. But so said, that integration holds great potential for expanding current

models of risk and resilience in populations of youth and young adults who face social and contextual adversities.

The application that Dr. Doane has submitted for consideration is thoughtful, well conceptualized, meets the strategic interests of the W.T. Grant Scholars Programs, and is feasible. She has organized the application to demonstrate exactly the processes through which the work will be done, and the efforts that will be involved in each of the three phases of the work she proposes. The four aims of the work are thoughtfully constructed to specifically address novel conceptual and methodological perspectives on existing disparities that influence academic outcomes for Latino youth, particularly with respect to the pursuit of higher education. Given her history of successful scholarship to date, there is no doubt that she will accomplish all the goals proposed in her application. She has developed an impressive training plan, with Professor Nancy Gonzales as a primary mentor for her efforts to integrate cultural perspectives in her work, and Professor Robert Crosnoe as a mentor for the mixed methods approaches she is hoping to use and master. Both are eminent scholars in their field, and uniquely qualified to serve as mentors for Dr. Doane. Certainly, it's an impressive team.

an assessment of the applicant's plan

Arizona State University is also an impressive venue that is well suited to support this effort by Dr. Doane. ASU is an innovative institution that has characterized its mission as one to create the "New American University", and is guided by a set novel principles or "design imperatives" that set its vision. Among these are ideas that the university must leverage place (embrace and engage its cultural setting), be socially embedded (conduct research for the public good and the economic, social, and cultural vitality of its region), and seek intellectual fusion in which multiple perspectives are brought to bear on critical issues facing our nation. Dr. Doane's application embodies the true the spirit of these imperatives, and her efforts are highly regarded by the university. Her early career at ASU has been very successful, and we certainly anticipate that these successes will continue. She is an integral part of the Department of Psychology, and her energy, drive, and commitment to the academic enterprise has set a standard for other faculty. She has already shown outstanding leadership qualities within her primary affiliations (developmental and clinical areas), and we expect that these efforts will grow as she moves through the promotional steps ahead.

The applicant's current and expected future roles in the division

As Department Chair, I can detail the status of her current appointment, and speak to future plans. Dr. Doane is an Assistant Professor of Psychology (tenure-track), and will be beginning her fifth year on faculty in the fall of 2014. Her current academic year salary is (\$), and this salary is supported entirely by Arizona State University. She will come up for promotion and tenure review in the fall of 2015, and all indications are that she is on track for success. The Department of Psychology provides office and laboratory space for Dr. Doane, sufficient to support all activities outlined in this application. I can also guarantee that at least 50% of Dr. Doane's salaried position can be devoted to the pursuit of research.

Insert the amount of the applicant's annual full-time salary here

- Appointment, promotion, institutional support plans for the applicant
- the supporting resources available;
- the applicant's current source and amount of salary and;
- Also include a guarantee that at least 50 percent of the applicant's paid time will be devoted to research.

In sum, Dr. Doane is very well prepared to take full advantage of the W.T. Grant Scholars Program. She is an accomplished early career scholar who can push her efforts to an even higher level should she be chosen as a Scholar. She is primed for leadership in her field, and I have every confidence that she will be one of those scholars who help to set the research agenda for the next generation. What she has proposed in her application will be a meaningful step in that direction, and she merits this support. As her Department Chair, I can say without

equivocation that Dr. Doane has my full support, and that of the College and University, to pursue the goals and intents of the proposed project.

We look forward to the opportunities that the W.T. Scholars Program can bring to Dr. Doane. She is a most worthy applicant, and one sure to be among the program's shining stars in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Keith A. Crnic", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Keith A. Crnic, Ph.D.
Foundation Professor and Chair