

May 4, 2021

To whom it may concern:

It is a pleasure to write to you on behalf of Ms. Marnie Rose, who is applying for a position at your medical school. Ms. Rose has worked as a student under my supervision as Scientific Director of the Institute for Preventive Medicine at The Methodist Hospital and as Director of the Center for Cancer Control Research at Baylor College of Medicine for the past two summers. Marnie is without a doubt one of the brightest and most personable young students I have ever had the pleasure of working with. I am certain that her future career in medicine and public health will be one of accomplishment and significance.

Last summer, Marnie took an independent study elective with that evolved from her keen interest in understanding the psychosocial impact of the Chernobyl accident on individuals who have immigrated from the former Soviet Union to the United States. Marnie's knowledge of the Russian language, their culture and values obviously facilitated her ability to interview immigrants, to elicit their concerns and provide us useful information on how we might better serve their current medical needs. The result of her work, "Psychosocial Impact of the Chernobyl Accident on Immigrants to the United States," was presented at the "Physicians of Chernobyl" International Conference on "Actual and Prognosed Mental Health Disorders after Nuclear Catastrophe in Chernobyl" in Kiev, Ukraine on May 25, 1994.

In addition to her own research project she participated in the development and translation of health status and medical evaluation questionnaires that are being used in the US Chernobyl Immigrant Registry project and at a special clinic to examine selected immigrants for inclusion in collaborative international research studies being conducted in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Israel. I challenged Marnie to identify those physical and physiologic measures and behaviors that would permit us to effectively assess an individual's current health status. She did so with acumen. Next she learned how to develop a set of questions that would provide reliable and valid measures of each of these indicators through a self-report questionnaire. As she progressed through this experience she came to understand the importance of good communication, and appropriate information. Marnie responded with an understanding I would have expected from a seasoned medical student. As a part of the development of these questionnaires Marnie not only interviewed many immigrants but a number of our faculty members to ascertain the current state of the science and transformed it into a meaningful set of questions to be asked of each immigrant. Her thorough reading of the literature in advance, set the parameters for the interviews. While I was pleased to provide her introductions to those individuals with whom she met, I assure you it was her competence and understanding of the issues that made the interviews productive.

This summer Marnie is continuing her work in this area. She is currently in the Former Soviet Union where she will meet with a number of scientists with whom we have research affiliations. In addition she will be meeting with lay leaders of groups of Chernobyl clean-up workers known as "liquidators" (this group is now estimated to be about 800,000). These are individuals who participated in the construction of the sarcophagus and the general clean-up of the 30 km zone that was highly contaminated after the accident. Obtaining information concerning these individuals will add an important dimension to her understanding of the psychosocial problems

that have surfaced as a result of the accident. When she returns from the Former Soviet Union she will begin work on her honor thesis at The University of Texas and incorporate the experience, information and data obtained over these past three summers. I have the pleasure of serving on her thesis committee and I am confident that her contribution in this area will be an important one.

While I am not familiar with the specific criteria for admissions to each medical school I can without hesitation recommend you give her application serious consideration. Having served on many similar committees I have found that evaluating the past performance of a candidate is far easier than projecting future performance. Having had the opportunity to see Marnie over a two year period I can honestly say that her past only begins to predict her future. She is bright and quick to learn; she assumes responsibility well; she works well in a variety of team settings; she is not afraid to ask questions; and she gets the job done. She is exactly the type of young person who will carry medicine into the 21st century, and I am gratified to have been a part of her preparation.

Should I be able to provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to call or write.

Sincerely,

Armin D. Weinberg, Ph.D.
Director Center for Cancer Control Research
Baylor College of Medicine

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