



October 23, 2020

Dear the Review Committee:

On behalf of the Center for Pan Asian Community Services (CPACS) in Atlanta, Georgia, I am writing this letter in full support of Ms. Vu's application for the Mary K. Beyrer Scholarship. I and many team members at CPACS have worked with Ms. Vu on various research and evaluation projects over the past four years and can speak to her dedication to research to improve the health of immigrant, refugee, and Asian-American communities. CPACS is highly enthusiastic about working with Ms. Vu on her dissertation project.

CPACS is the first, largest, and oldest organization in the Southeast to focus on issues and concerns of Asian-Americans. Besides our unique capacity to serve Asians, in recent years, we have also been providing services to other low-income individuals and families, immigrant and refugee communities, and those with limited English proficiency. Our priority programmatic goals are to develop impactful research that promote awareness of immigrants' health needs, reduce health disparities, and advocate for resources and policy that promote well-being in this population.

We have collaborated with Ms. Vu on various projects related to health of immigrant, refugee, and Asian-American communities. Notably, in 2017, she was awarded a grant from the Emory Global Health Institute to conduct a project with CPACS to study tobacco use among children of immigrants in metropolitan Atlanta. Ms. Vu designed and conducted the survey in consultation with CPACS staff members and Dr. Escoffery (her Emory advisor). She collected survey data from adolescents from diverse origins as well as their parents. Following the completion of data collection, CPACS has continued to collaborate with Ms. Vu in interpreting survey results and writing manuscripts from data on this project. Data from this project have been highly relevant to our ongoing activities, as they provide evidence for us to better design services and to advocate for resources and policy for tobacco and substance use prevention programs in immigrant populations in metropolitan Atlanta. Ms. Vu and CPACS staff have also co-published a manuscript from this data in the Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health, Translational Behavioral Medicine (currently in press), and Journal of Community Health (currently in press).

In addition to this project, Ms. Vu worked with CPACS to conduct evaluation for our SAMHSA-funded Drug Free Community program aiming to prevent alcohol and tobacco use among Asian and Hispanic youth. She advised us on creating a survey for retail compliance checks for alcohol sales to minors in immigrant communities in metropolitan Atlanta. She also provided us with statistical analysis expertise for community needs assessments carried out as part of the Georgia's Alcohol & Substance Abuse Prevention Project.

Moreover, with funding from several programs at Emory University (Jones Program in Ethics, Center for Reproductive Health Research in the Southeast, and Healthcare Innovation Program) and the Organization of Research on Women and Communication, Ms. Vu conducted a qualitative research project on sexual and reproductive health of refugee women in partnership with CPACS. She worked with our Nepali and Burmese-speaking interpreters to recruit and interview female refugees on this topic. We have also facilitated Ms. Vu's connections with healthcare providers serving female refugees so she can interview them about their perspectives in providing sexual and reproductive healthcare.

All of these experiences speak to Ms. Vu's history of and dedication to health promotion in immigrant, refugee, and minority communities. We are excited about her dissertation proposal to study Vietnamese parents' HPV vaccine uptake for their adolescent children. We are committed to supporting her and seeing this project come to fruition. We have reviewed her data collection instruments to ensure cultural relevance and facilitated recruitment of research participants through CPACS's email list-serves, social media pages, and community events and programs. We also facilitated her connections to other community organizations serving Vietnamese and Asian Americans for study recruitment. We will also assist her to disseminate findings, assessment tools, and protocols to other community organizations and social services as well as relevant stakeholders, and to use these results to inform practice and policy. Indeed, CPACS is heavily involved in several organizations such as the Center for the Study of Asian American Health National Advisory Committee on Research that can help guide community action and policy.

The Mary K. Beyrer Scholarship will support costs associated with Ms. Vu's dissertation research. On behalf of CPACS, I urge the Committee to view Ms. Vu's application favorably. We believe that this scholarship will help to further establish Ms. Vu's career in addressing the health needs of children and youth of minority populations, a purpose that is critical to advancing the work of CPACS and making a true impact in these populations.

Sincerely,



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