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April 20, 2005

Alison Macpherson
Professor
Chair, Search Committee
Epidemiology of Physical Activity, Fitness and Health
School of Kinesiology and Health Science
York University

April 20, 2005

Dear Dr. Macpherson,

Hala Tamim has asked me to write a letter of recommendation in support of her candidacy for a position in your Department, and I am very pleased to do so.

I have known Dr. Tamim since 1994, when she began taking courses in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McGill University. At that time, she was also a research assistant under the supervision of Dr. John Sampalis, who was Director of the Trauma Registry at the Montreal General Hospital. She soon became well known in our Department, when she was the only PhD student to pass the difficult comprehensive examinations at the time she took the exam in 1996.

Prior to coming to McGill, Dr. Tamim received an MSc degree in Public Health from Emory University in the United States. She also had much experience in teaching, both in Lebanon and the United States and Canada.

I have since had the opportunity to work with Dr. Tamim on numerous occasions as the biostatistician on her PhD project, and on several projects after she graduated. She has always proven herself to be an ideal collaborator, often contributing innovative ideas towards the research, and carrying out her aspects of the work with great skill, care and speed. The results of her PhD project, which concerned triage protocols for trauma

patients in Quebec, were important, and led to changes in trauma protocols currently used. There is no doubt that Dr. Tamim was one the the best PhD students in our Department in recent years.

The training that Dr. Tamim has received at McGill, combined with her many years of practical experience designing and carrying out complex studies at the Montreal General Hospital and later at the American University of Beirut, have shaped her into an ideal epidemiological researcher. As a glance at her CV quickly makes obvious, she now has a long and distinguished publication record arising from her many research projects, most of which she has directed herself.

On a personal level, Dr. Tamim has been a pleasure to work with. I believe that a main motivation for her to apply for your position is a strong desire to return to the more productive research environments Canadian universities can offer her compared to her current situation. I suspect she will continue to thrive here in Canada, as she has done in Beirut. For all of the above reasons, I have no reservations in giving Dr. Tamim my highest possible recommendation. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish further information.

Yours sincerely,

Lawrence Joseph, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
McGill University