



February 3, 2023

JAN BUSBY-WHITEHEAD, MD
*M. Andrew Greganti Distinguished Professor
Chief, Division of Geriatric Medicine
Director, Center for Aging and Health*

Dear IHQI Review Committee Members:

On behalf of the Division of Geriatric Medicine, I am delighted to provide this statement of strong support and act as the organizational sponsor for the proposal “Reducing Potentially Inappropriate Medications in Patients with Cognitive Impairment” led by Dr. Emily Cetrone and Dr. Amy Abramowitz. In Geriatrics, we have a unique perspective on the potential harms of medications. I think this project is very important, and I am excited to facilitate their effort to reduce polypharmacy in our patients.

Multiple faculty in the Division of Geriatric Medicine have been leaders in quality improvement efforts at UNC and have participated in the IHQI Scholars program in the past. I have sponsored several of these projects. I hold a Blue Belt in Lean Six Sigma. I look forward to sponsoring the proposed project and will be available to meet with the investigators quarterly or more frequently if needed.

The changes that Dr. Cetrone and Dr. Abramowitz are proposing to improve processes within our clinic are promising. We work closely as an interdisciplinary team and efforts to improve our communication, efficiency, and patient experience are welcome.

Dr. Cetrone joined our faculty in August 2021 after completing her Internal Medicine residency with a Primary Care focus at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and her Geriatrics fellowship at Boston Medical Center. She is an accomplished teacher and leader. She has won several teaching awards, and leads our Project ECHO outreach to primary care physicians to discuss patient cases with a geriatrics focus. She also co-leads the Medical Educator Elective for second year Medicine residents. Dr. Abramowitz is a faculty member in the Department of Psychiatry who sees patients within our outpatient clinic at Eastowne as well as consults from the Piedmont Health Inc. Program for All-Inclusive Care of the Elderly (PACE) with which we are affiliated. I have mentored both Dr. Cetrone and Dr. Abramowitz over the past year and a half as they have developed the Aging Brain Clinic with the Department of Neurology, and I have noted that they work excellently as a team.

In summary, I am confident that Dr. Cetrone and Dr. Abramowitz will benefit from taking part in the IHQI program as several others in our division have. I anticipate that they will both be leaders in the QI community at UNC for years to come. I expect that their collaboration will be of great benefit to the patients, staff, and clinicians in our division.

Sincerely,

Jan Busby-Whitehead, MD