



HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL



HARVARD T.H. CHAN
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Felipe Fregni, M.D., Ph.D., M.M.Sc., M.P.H., M.Ed.

Professor of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Harvard Medical School
Director, Spaulding Neuromodulation Laboratory, Spaulding Rehabilitation
Hospital

Professor of Epidemiology, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Director, Principles and Practice of Clinical Research (PPCR) Program,
Executive Continuing and Professional Education (ECPE)

September 15th, 2023

To whom it may concern,

It is a great pleasure to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Dr. Anna Skotny. I met Anna in March 2018 when she started the Principles and Practice of Clinical Research (PPCR) course at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Since I first interacted with Anna, I knew she was one of a kind; I have found in her an exceptionally passionate and single-minded individual who has clear goals. She dreams of becoming a leader biomedical engineer to positively impact the health and research field by conducting high-quality research in order to benefit patients' outcomes. She truly believes that research is the baofone for a holistic approach to patient care.

One of the things that caught my attention about Anna was that she is not only an intelligent and bright individual but she is also a leader. During the PPCR course, she proved herself to be an outstanding team player and immediately became the leader in her group. I remember how instantly, Harvard faculty, teaching assistants of all levels, and peer students, felt connected with her, due to her positive attitude, intelligence, empathy, willingness to help others, and proactiveness. She organized all the extra meetings, was up-to-date with all activities, and improved the group's cohesiveness so that it worked smoother and efficiently. Not surprisingly, due to her outstanding performance, she was awarded the Student Scholar Award (the highest recognition), and she was within the 99th percentile of the class in the PPCR program

Anna was extremely interactive throughout the program and demonstrated excellent critical thinking skills; she never stopped exhibiting her motivation to learn. The PPCR is a demanding course in which Anna achieved the highest grade, ranking in the top 1% of the 440 students class. Moreover, as part of the program, students participated in a group project where they had to create a randomized clinical trial protocol with a given challenge. Anna portrayed herself as a team leader and worked exceptionally with the group. It is not easy to create a protocol with 25 other participants; she showed initiative,

Spaulding Neuromodulation Laboratory ◆ 79/96 13th Street ◆ Charlestown, MA 02129

(617) 952-6158 ◆ fregni.felipe@mgh.harvard.edu ◆ ffregni@hsph.harvard.edu

was always respectful, and made a warm work environment for the group. During the five-day immersion course we had at the end of our program, Anna demonstrated superb communication skills while presenting and defending her group project to various faculty members. Anna lead the group project from the beginning to the end and her protocol is under submission, as a first author in our journal.

Because of her excellent work, Anna was nominated by her teaching assistants and earned the Clinical Research Scholar Award, the highest merit in the program. Anna's professionalism and work ethic are exemplary.

Due to her excellent performance in the program, Anna was invited to become a Teaching Assistant in the program, which she has done in an excellent way, earning her the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award in 2020, 2021, and 2022. Indeed, from our large group of teaching assistants of 354 TAs, Anna was one of the best.

Anna excelled in the program and then continued to contribute to the PPCR Program as a Teaching Assistant from 2019 to the present. Since she became a Teaching Assistant, Anna has coached and supported students beyond our expectations. She is always on time with her tasks, volunteering to work on extra activities, sharing new content to enhance the students learning, and collaborative with her TA colleagues. In addition, she does STATA practical sessions, where she handles data sets and makes analysis to support the statistics weekly lecture material. This activity gained her recognition from the students, teaching assistants, and the faculty in the program. Due to her excellent work, she was promoted to Senior Teaching Assistant since 2021.

Additionally, Anna has been a key speaker for the Optional Lectures Series, that happens every Friday, where she coaches our students to develop their randomized controlled trial protocols, defining their project research questions, and study design.

I saw in Anna a high potential and due to her desire to improve health administration and research, I rapidly recruited her to become a peer-reviewer in the PPCR Journal. Here, with each review, I had the opportunity to ascertain first-hand the thoroughness of work and excellent critical thinking abilities. She is honest and devoted to producing high-quality work. She is definitely an excellent addition to the journal as she helps maintain our high-quality standards. In fact, she was awarded due to her outstanding work as a reviewer for the PPCR Journal; she had the best rating.

Anna has consistently demonstrated to be a responsible, a committed, an organized, and an efficient individual. More importantly, she knows when/how to solve problems independently and when/how to ask for help. I am impressed with how easy she learns

and how she improves considerably each day. Therefore, it has been a pleasure working with her; she definitely is a team player, and she proved herself to be an excellent, humble, and driven individual.

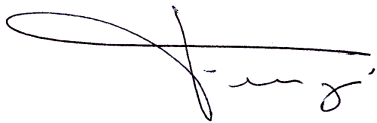
In summary, Anna is an outstanding individual, that brings great passion and dedication to any work. She is an incredible team worker that immediately wins the affection of others due to her remarkable disposition and attitude towards work. She has also great leadership and communication skills and is the type of professional that stands out in any position she takes.

I have come to know Anna very well personally and professionally over the past 5 years as a research student, Teaching Assistant, and now as colleague, and I feel very confident she has the necessary leadership skills, experience, and passion for research and innovation, and she will be an excellent asset to any institution.

As director of the lab and the PPCR program, I had the pleasure of teaching and mentoring thousands of students and fellows. I can assure you that Anna's overall performance and personal qualities are among the top 1% of my many students and fellows. I look forward to following her career, and I hope to continue collaborating with her in the years to come. I would be happy to provide any additional information about this exceptional candidate.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Fregni', with a large loop at the beginning and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Felipe Fregni, M.D., Ph.D., M.M.Sc., M.P.H., M.Ed.