**Nomination Support Letter – Distinguished Research Mentor Award**

**Professor Felicity Goodyear-Smith**

Felicity Goodyear-Smith is a remarkable person. Selfless, compassionate and empathic are some of her personal qualities that spring to mind. These characteristics also make her a remarkable research mentor. A remarkable research mentor is someone whose personal attributes means that they are a mentor for researchers rather than a researcher that happens to mentor. Felicity’s approach has always been to build up people, to guide them in their research journey, to see them develop and to celebrate their successes and she does this in a selfless fashion.

My first interactions with Felicity were when I was a beginning researcher, interested in academia but not sure of how to go about doing it. Felicity was my Head of Department and she provided me with numerous opportunities to extend my research skill set. These included linking me to international collaborators, encouraging me to apply to overseas fellowships and suggesting conferences to attend. She brought me into research projects that she was involved with and guided me through grant writing, ethics applications, study design, data analysis and writing. Felicity would offer me opportunities to write book chapters, contribute editorials and join committees and organisations. Her interest in me extended to myself as a person. She would check on my wellbeing and be someone whom I could talk to about stressors in my life (as well as have a beer with).

Felicity is a highly distinguished researcher with over 300 publications who is internationally renowned. Her mentoring relationships extend across the globe. She has mentored beginning researchers in numerous countries, often taking an interest in primary care physicians and researchers in developing countries where there is little structured primary care. This passion saw her become the Chairperson of the International Committee of the North American Primary Care Research Group between 2014-2018.

The same mentoring approach that she took me with she has extended to multiple beginning researchers. Recently I spoke to an early career primary care physician in another country whom she had a mentoring relationship with. He told me of a personal tragedy that occurred to him and Felicity was the person who dropped what she was doing to be with him and provide support at this difficult time. He reflected that Felicity was a seminal figure in his life and his appreciation of her extended past the research mentoring that she undertook, but also to her compassion and care.

While Felicity has fostered individual mentoring relationships with numerous primary care researchers she has also taken a strategic approach in mentoring by addressing some of the barriers that early career researchers face. This has included writing research methods books to guide early career researchers, being involved with WONCA and the International Primary Health Care Research Consortium. She established an academic journal, the Journal of Primary Health Care, with a purpose of encouraging early career clinician researchers in New Zealand and providing them with an opportunity to publish original research. As part of her role with the journal she created templates to help guide researchers with their writing and gave positive and constructive feedback.

Felicity was awarded a Distinguished Fellow of the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners in 2016 (the supreme award by the College). The award was made for her services to fostering and contributing to research and academic teaching in general practice. Her award ceremony citation stated that she “has inspired undergraduate general practice teaching, developed postgraduate primary health care programmes and remains a critic and conscience of primary health care.”

In nominating Felicity for this award I can confirm that she is a NAPCRG member, has not won the award previously and is over ten years into her academic career. It is my pleasure in nominating Felicity for the Distinguished Research Mentor Award.

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