

23 March, 2021

Letter to nominate

Mr. David Kenney, and the Research Ethics and Compliance Team at SickKids Toronto,

for either the

2021 CAREB-ACCER Peer Recognition Award

or the

2021 CAREB-ACCER Distinguished Service Award

Dear CAREB-ACCER nominating committee for the 2021 Peer Recognition Award or the 2021 CAREB-ACCER Distinguished Service Award,

This letter is to nominate Mr. David Kenney, and the Research Ethics and Compliance Team at SickKids Toronto to be nominated for CAREB-ACCER's 2021 Peer Recognition Award or the 2021 CAREB-ACCER Distinguished Service Award.

Since joining CAREB-ACCER, I have observed Mr. Kenney and his entire Research Ethics team at SickKids to be stellar members of the CAREB-ACCER Research Ethics Community; they are members truly worthy of receiving the 2021 CAREB-ACCER Peer Recognition Award or the 2021 CAREB-ACCER Distinguished Service Award.

Over the last few years, I have observed Mr. Kenney and his team attending CAREB-ACCER's annual conference. I have observed this group to be engaged delegates who have a marked presence at our conference. As an employee in Health Care setting, I know the work it takes to "free up" the availability of numerous employees/team members to jointly attend any type of educational event. This effort tells us of Mr. Kenney's leadership, and his and this team's commitment to their professional development in research ethics (not to mention the dedication to team building). Whether it is the liveliness at their table during our breakfast, or the asking of thoughtful questions after a speaker's presentation – the audience knows that the SickKids Research Ethics Team is at our conference.

As Chair of CAREB-ACCER's Conference Planning Committee, I have observed first hand the number of submissions the SickKids Research Ethics team have submitted to present at our annual conferences. These submissions led me to start to follow their contributions (both direct and indirect) in the research ethics literature. The Research Ethics team has made a number of important contributions to the Canadian Research Ethics landscape; from memory, I remember contributions spanning the range of seeking informed consent with capable minors, developments in e-consent, ethical issues surrounding euthanasia in youth over 18 years of age, legal rights of minors, and assent and consent issues with parents. We in the research ethics community have true respect for this sensitive, ethical work, all focused on the vulnerable population of children, youth, and their families, facing serious, life-limiting challenges.

Mr. David Kenney and his team are also good colleagues outside of the CAREB-ACCER conference. After meeting David at our conference, I once phoned him asking for a collegial consult on a sensitive issue I

was facing in an ethical review. His words – were to the effect of - “Dawn, research studies - they are all snow flakes – I always tell my team to see each one for the uniqueness it represents.” This thoughtfulness, this respect for the work, this collegial support that acknowledged the challenges we face in our research ethics roles, was so impactful it made it to a “**SNOW-FLAKES**” post-it note on my wall; this note has helped me ground my understanding every time I face a unique research ethics challenge.

As you can see from my letter, it is evident that Mr. David Kenney, and the Research Ethics and Compliance Team at SickKids Toronto, are exceptional peers – worthy of recognition for their contribution to the Canadian Research Ethics community both within CAREB-ACCER and beyond our organization to our pan-Canadian research ethics community.

Whether the award committee sees to it that they receive the 2021 CAREB-ACCER Peer Recognition Award, or the 2021 CAREB-ACCER Distinguished Service Award – these are research ethics colleagues who deserve recognition for their contributions.

Sincerely

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