



January 22, 2019

URI Interdisciplinary Neurosciences Program  
Graduate Admissions

To whom it may concern:

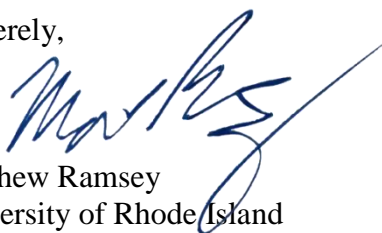
My name is Matthew Ramsey and I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Cell and Molecular Biology at the University of Rhode Island. I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Amanda Barney to the Neurosciences graduate program. I have had the pleasure of teaching Amanda in two semesters here at URI as part of my CMB211 Integrative Microbiology course.

Amanda distinguished herself right away in a classroom of 120 students. She sat right up front, came early, stayed to the end and was one of the few students to ask questions in lecture. She also often asked great questions after the lecture was over and it was immediately clear that Amanda wanted to have a complete understanding of the subject and not just a cursory knowledge sufficient to pass a test and move on. Unfortunately Amanda began to have health problems during this semester. Amanda handled herself extremely well during this time. She approached me as soon as her health began to impact her lecture and lab attendance and wanted to discuss options to keep her grade high. She was very mature, proactive and consistent and I worked to help her. Ultimately, Amanda had to withdraw for that semester and up to that point she had the highest grade in the class.

One year later Amanda returned to finish my course. As before she was immediately one of the best students and now despite the material being more review and a bit simple for her, she still came to each lecture, fully engaged and full of good questions. Even when her performance basically guaranteed her an A grade in the course she still attended and showed a great interest in the subject. It has really been a privilege to have her as a student. I have had numerous personal conversations with Amanda regarding her earlier issues with the course as well as her application here. She is by far more mature, determined and motivated than 99% of her peers. I have no hesitation suggesting that she would be a great fit in a collaborative graduate research environment.

It is my belief that Amanda would be extremely successful in your program and I am glad to offer my strongest possible recommendation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Matthew Ramsey  
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