



April 12, 2019

Dear Denise, Mamie, and Nasir,

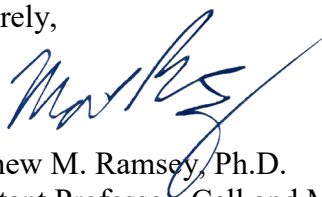
It is my pleasure to nominate Janet Atoyan for the 2019 CELS Staff Excellence Award. Janet has been working in the Genomics and Sequencing Center (GSC) since before I was hired in Fall 2016 and has been the Manager of the GSC since June 2017. She is responsible for the day-to-day running of the GSC where she carries out all duties, administrative, training and technical, a rare combination that not many staff in any capacity can achieve. She does all this with great enthusiasm, collegiality and professional behavior. Janet provides the best possible service to all users of the URI Genomics and Sequencing Center (GSC) and is an incredibly valuable asset to CELS and the University as a whole.

Since joining the staff of the GSC, Janet has been vital in implementing and conducting our Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) service. The critical duties of this position are the preparation of DNA libraries from samples submitted by various investigators and the subsequent analysis of these samples with our Illumina MiSeq next-generation sequencer. Sample preparation methods involve difficult molecular biology techniques as well as robotic instrument operation. In addition, she has employed other instruments in order to determine and maintain quality control of the samples. Janet has also been responsible for the day-to-day task of preparing and analyzing samples for Sanger DNA sequencing and capillary fragment analysis. Through her outstanding efforts, the GSC is able to serve the research community not only in CELS, but across several colleges at URI and all the EPSCoR and INBRE affiliated institutions in Rhode Island.

Janet has been invaluable in training my current graduate students. In addition to standard training for GSC equipment available to us, Janet as often helped us troubleshoot genomic methods and get more out of our data than we could on our own. Janet has also helped us locate more cost effective reagents for our lab and assisted us with bulk purchases with other labs, saving the College time and money. Janet has been an extremely competent and well organized staff member and our productivity is all the better for it.

In summary, Janet is an outstanding example of a professional staff member and is in every way well deserving of this award. I hope you consider her for it.

Sincerely,



Matthew M. Ramsey, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Cell and Molecular Biology