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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

## DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS

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## UC DAVIS MEDICAL CENTER

Jana Din  
Tao Center for Healing  
Sacramento, CA

22. September 2015

Dear Jana:

As I prepare to leave Sacramento for my new position in Washington, DC, I find myself reflecting back on my almost three years of experience in Northern California. While my work at the medical center was interesting, my most rewarding and satisfying experiences came from the collaborative work that you did on behalf of many of my ICU and palliative care patients. I was deeply impressed by your ability to move into the patient's and family's reality as you offered them new perspectives and tools for dealing with the challenging life or death situations they were facing. I know that for many of the families and those patients who recovered, that the insights they gained through working with you have been transformative and deeply meaningful for them. Your integrity and professional conduct won over the nursing staff and other physicians.

As you and I often discussed, the challenge of coming into a stressful situation such as the ICU (to work with patients who do not even know they need what you have to offer) is one, which is very different than a healing practice in an office setting. Your ability to calmly enter and be a presence to the families after only a brief introduction by me was remarkable for me to watch as it unfolded. I was very pleased to see that many of the families chose to maintain contact with you after their child had been discharged or died, which suggests to me how deeply they were moved and comforted by their interactions with you. While it is not yet a traditional part of institutional medicine to write a medical "order" for a "shamanic practitioner consultation", you were able to effortlessly win over all of the families I saw you work with as if you were simply part of their extended community. Our collaboration and approach were innovative and met deep spiritual needs which are so important for healing of the body and soul.

So, in closing, I want to thank you for your availability and service to many of my patients. Your presence augmented the high quality biological care they were receiving in ways that I myself could not have achieved as an ICU physician. As someone once said, if we support the human spirit, it allows the body to accept Western medicine more effectively. I wish that I could clone you and bring you to Washington, but that is not meant to be. Hopefully, I will find a colleague of similar ability and demeanor in my new role here.

With tremendous gratitude for your collaborative partnership, I remain sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Steinhorn".

David M Steinhorn, MD  
Professor of Pediatrics  
Pediatric Critical Care  
Pediatric Palliative Care