



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY
4301 JONES BRIDGE ROAD
BETHESDA, MD 20814**

February 28, 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Letter of Recommendation for COL Dana Nguyen, MD

1. Members of the selection committee, it is my pleasure to enthusiastically recommend COL Dana Nguyen as the USAFP Family Physician of the Year. This nomination is made based on the wide ranging and lasting impact that COL Nguyen has had on military medicine, uniformed family medicine, and national family medicine.
2. I have worked with COL Nguyen since 2014, when she joined us at the Uniformed Services University after successful stints as the associate program director of the family medicine residency at Womack Army Medical Center, chair of family medicine at General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital, and assistant chief of primary care for the 14th Combat Support Hospital in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.
3. When COL Nguyen arrived at USU, she quickly assumed responsibility for the family medicine clerkship. The family medicine clerkship is the primary means by which we teach USU students about the value and ethos of family medicine and is our most effective recruiting tool. As director, COL Nguyen guided over 1,000 students in the precepts of continuous, comprehensive, contextual care, and oversaw match rates to family medicine that were higher than almost any other allopathic school in the country. Under her direction, the family medicine clerkship was the highest ranked core clerkship for five years running.
4. It is important to know that COL Nguyen achieved this while being an excellent full scope family physician role model, active in clinic and maternity care, for which she was recognized with the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Master Clinician Award. She also accomplished this while being an outstanding educator, winning the William P. Clements award for teaching (given to one USU faculty each year) and earning the Army Medical Department A proficiency designator.
5. Based on her accomplishments, COL Nguyen was installed as Chair, Department of Family Medicine in 2020. She has used this position to broaden the scope and depth of her impact for uniformed and national family medicine. She currently serves in the leadership of the Association of Departments of Family Medicine, the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, and the MHS Council for Female Physician Recruiting and Retention. This is in addition to the multiple leadership position she holds at USU outside our department. She is well published and highly sought after as a speaker.
6. Despite all of these reasons to be quite proud of her achievements, and they are many, COL Nguyen remains a humble servant leader. As an illustration, I'd like to share my experiences at Operation Bushmaster, our military medicine capstone, with you. Bushmaster is the culminating field training experience for USU students, and involves a month of classroom preparation followed by five days of intense scenario-based role playing in an austere training setting. Although it is not expected for clerkship directors or department chairs to be out in the elements with the students (those elements being heat injury inducing sun, monsoon strength rains, or chilling snow depending on the vagaries of Pennsylvania weather in October), COL Nguyen has been out there every year since her arrival at USU. On any given



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day, you will see her encouraging, supporting, challenging, and sometimes yelling, other times reassuring, students as they make their way through the training. She does it with a smile, regardless of whether there is mud on her boots or she has woken up from a night sleeping on the ground with her trainees.

7. I like following someone who leads by example, and COL Nguyen has done that the whole while she has been at USU. She provides outstanding care for her patients, she mentors students individually and teaches them on the whole, she leads her department, and by extension all those who teach and train USU students and family medicine learners. She sponsors her people, advocates for the marginalized, and constantly gives back to her military and family medicine communities. She is having an impact at the individual, school, and national level—and we are the better for it.

8. It is my honor to put COL Nguyen forward for the USAFP Family Physician of the Year. Her efforts on behalf of our specialty have reaped tremendous dividends and ensured the strength of uniformed and national family medicine for years to come.

9. POC is the undersigned at aaron.saguil@usuhs.edu, (202) 236-4340.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Saguil", is written over a horizontal line.

Aaron Saguil, MD, MPH, FAAFP
COL, MC, USA

Associate Dean, Regional Education-San Antonio
F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine

Enclosure: COL Nguyen CV