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October 15, 2020

Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of British Columbia
500-3777 Kingsway
Burnaby, British Columbia
V5H 3Z7

Dear NNPBC Awards Adjudication Committee,

Re: Dr. Nancy Clark's Nomination for NNPBC Nursing Award of Excellence in Nursing Research

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of Dr. Nancy Clark's nomination for an NNPBC Nursing Award of Excellence in Advancing Nursing Knowledge & Research. I take this opportunity to comment on Dr. Clark's achievements and contributions as they relate to the criteria for this award. In my estimation, Dr. Clark demonstrates excellence in conducting research that is related to nursing practice and health care priorities of immigrant and mental health. She assumes leadership roles in advancing nursing research as a Principal or Co-Principal Investigator (PI or Co-PI) on projects funded through competitive grants. She acts as a role model for students and others in fostering research interest and career development. She works to disseminate her work in diverse venues accessible to the populations served through the research. Most notably, Dr. Clark's program of research is founded in the principles of health equity, social justice and human rights. Although relatively early in her academic career, she is already growing in her reputation as one of Western Canada's leading scholars in her field of study.

Dr. Clark's program of research addresses an important gap in knowledge, policy and practice related to immigrant, refugee, ethno-cultural and racialized communities in Canada. Her work contributes to a comprehensive understanding of social inequalities and inequities associated with mental healthcare and access for underserved communities. Dr. Clark's program of research directly addresses the University of Victoria's (UVic) strategic priority for community engaged scholarship and advances in social determinants of mental health research under the University of Victoria's Health Science Research Initiative.

Dr. Clark's program of research demonstrates the integration of principles of social justice and health equity with her teaching and mentorship of students. For example, she is co-leading a community engaged learning study on 'Instilling Service Based Learning through the UVic BSN Program'. This project received funding through the UVic experiential learning grants to advance community and university partnerships, and builds community health nursing capacity with underserved communities in the greater Victoria region. This initiative also provides

research opportunities for undergraduate nursing students; for example, they conducted a scoping review on service-based learning and education for BSN education. Dr. Clark has developed a course elective on mental health which integrates cultural safety and intersectionality for nursing with underserved groups in Canada. She publishes peer reviewed articles with graduate students.

Dr. Clark is PI and Co-PI on national and international research projects which aim to advance diversity and equity for immigrant, refugee and racialized communities in Canada. Examples of Dr. Clark's community engaged research includes a funded project with the Inter Cultural Association of Victoria (ICA) 'Building capacity for promoting refugee and newcomer health: a community engagement project'. Through this project Dr. Clark has advocated for increased access to primary healthcare services for newcomers in Canada and is mobilizing policy change with Island Health, the local immigrant health sector table and ICA to build inclusive healthcare services and supports, particularly for incoming refugees who often cannot access care due to multiple barriers. Dr. Clark is also advancing research on diversity and inclusion for Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) initiatives on Strategies for Patient Oriented Research (SPOR). Dr. Clark is also a lead investigator on 'Diverse Communities Facing Multiple Barriers to Engagement in Patient Oriented Research' (CIHR).

In addition to these initiatives, Dr. Clark has been invited to join teams of investigators on national and international studies to contribute her expertise in methodology and focus on equity, intersectionality, diversity and inclusion. She is currently a Co-I and BC lead on an international collaboration with the University of Saskatchewan on Refugee Food Security Solutions and a national collaboration with University of Montreal on 'Respectful Health Care for Female Genital Cutting (RHCforFGC) - Sharing Actions and Strategies for Respectful and Equitable Health Care for Women with FGC/M'. Through Dr. Clark's leadership they provide advances in research which reflects nursing values of social justice and equitable healthcare for these populations.

Dr. Clark actively contributes to advocacy initiatives in nursing practice and health care settings through the communication of research findings. She currently chairs the health sector table through the local immigrant partnership at ICA and has provided leadership in development of the CARES for Equitable Health project in Vancouver policy document 'A Briefing Document from the Community Alliance of Racialized Ethno-cultural Services for Equitable Health' presented to the Ministry of Health by the BC Health Coalition.

In summary, Dr. Clark is a highly engaged and productive nursing scholar who is providing leadership through her research in the areas of mental health, inclusion and healthcare equity. These are priority areas in health and society as highlighted in the global experience of COVID-19. I strongly support Dr. Clark's nomination for Dr. Clark for this year's NNPBC award of Excellence in Advancing Nursing Knowledge and Research based on her outstanding contributions relative to the award criteria and to current and urgent health priorities today. Thank-you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Susan Duncan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Susan Duncan, RN, PhD
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