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Ms. Debra Shaffer-Kugel  
Executive Director  
Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners  
6010 S. Rainbow Blvd., Ste. A-1  
Las Vegas, NV 89118



Dear Ms. Shaffer-Kugel:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Dr. Antonina Capurro who is applying for licensure as a dental hygienist in Nevada. I have known Dr. Capurro for her entire educational experience at the UNLV School of Dental Medicine (SDM). The purpose of this correspondence is to validate the sufficiency of her education in periodontics and other aspects of patient care so she may be deemed to have met the requirements for dental hygiene licensure in Nevada.

Over the four year curriculum at the School of Dental Medicine, all students complete the following didactic hours in periodontics:

DEN 7136 Basics of Periodontal Instrumentation/Personal Preventive Interventions	40 hrs
DEN 7135 Periodontal Anatomy and Pathogenesis of Periodontal Diseases	14 hrs
DEN 7236 Introduction to Periodontal Diagnosis and Initial Preparation Therapy	26 hrs
DEN 7321 Principles of Periodontal Surgery	26 hrs
DEN 7442 Periodontal Regeneration/Periodontal Case Management	<u>13 hrs</u>
Total Hours, Periodontics:	<b>119 hours</b>

Dr. Capurro completed significant training in a wide array of applicable dental subjects. She completed a 16 hour course in Local Anesthesia that included didactic and clinical portions. She participated in a course in Nitrous Oxide Analgesia that meets certification standards established by the American Dental Association and was awarded a certificate upon completion. She completed training in the provision of dental sealants as part of a first year operative dentistry course. Other courses included oral histology, oral and general pathology, oral medicine, clinical pharmacology, clinical medicine, radiology, occlusion, nutrition, infection control, dental materials, diagnosis and treatment planning. Her intellectual mastery of these subjects is clear in her transcript from the School of Dental Medicine.

The Department of Clinical Sciences curriculum in the dental school is approximately 3900 contact hours in length over the four years (about 77% of the program). Students in the

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first two years begin care performing prophylaxes and periodontal recalls. In the management of a patient population in the upper two years, students are required to comprehensively manage 20-25 patients on an ongoing basis. As patients have their treatment completed, they exit a student's patient family and enter the recall system. Another patient is then assigned to the student to maintain a full population. The result of this system is that students see patients for initial periodontal evaluation and treatment, for ongoing periodontal recalls during treatment as needed, and for recall when appropriate. The level of care delivered during the clinical curriculum ranges from simple prevention cases to advance periodontal class III cases. Based on this model, Dr. Capurro has performed several hundred hours of periodontal clinical care, which is normal for an SDM Student.

Dr. Capurro graduated with a qualified degree based on a substantiated circumstance that has no direct bearing on her performance in the areas of skill related to dental hygiene. She successfully passed all clinical competencies the dental school requires to demonstrate competence in periodontal care and management.

I must add that throughout her academic work at SDM, Dr. Capurro show compete professionalism and the utmost of ethical behaviors. I strongly support Dr. Capurro's request to be considered for licensure in Nevada. She has been and will continue to me an exemplary member of the dental community in our state.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this recommendation.

Sincerely,



R. Michael Sanders, DMD, EdM, FICD, FACD  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Clinical Sciences

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