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April 1, 2023

Helen Long, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Postdoctoral Researcher
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Dear Dr. Long:

This letter is to give my enthusiastic support for your ICTR RL1 application titled, "Perceptual and acoustic measures of vocalizations in infants at risk for cerebral palsy." I am very pleased to serve as a collaborator for this important research.

Your project aims to document prelinguistic vocal development and speech outcomes in infants at risk for cerebral palsy. Specifically, you will characterize early vocal developmental using perceptual and acoustic measures and through modeling use this data to determine the predictive value of these measures in later speech outcomes. The research from your proposal offers a unique opportunity to describe acoustic features of pre-linguistic and early linguistic speech produced by infants at risk for motor speech impairment. This work has the potential to determine salient acoustic features that relate to perceptual judgements of infant speech but can also be used to determine predictive value of the measures. Work linking perception-acoustics and later outcomes lays the groundwork for future research in this area developing diagnostic tools for early detection.

We first began working together in June 2021 as part of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Pathways program. As a consultant for this proposal, I will actively provide training and support during all phases of the research and analyses. I will be available to participate in regularly scheduled research meetings and for additional consultation throughout the entire duration of this study to troubleshoot any issues with data analysis and interpreting the forthcoming data. I understand that I will not receive any compensation for my role as consultant on this project. I will also be actively involved as a co-author on any forthcoming publications for this project.

I am highly motivated to be a collaborator for your TL1 research proposal and look forward to working with you. I am confident that my participation in this project would lead to future studies aimed toward understanding acoustic features of prelinguistic and early speech development in cerebral palsy and other neurodevelopmental disabilities at risk for motor speech disorders.

Sincerely,

Kate Bunton, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Associate Professor, Associate Department Head,
Director of Graduate Studies
Director, Program for Excellence in Learning and Teaching