



THE UNIVERSITY OF
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RE: Radmila Tsoy, PhD Candidate

I am very happy to write this letter about my work with Dr Radmila Tsoy during her PhD candidature. I met Dr Tsoy in 2016 in Almaty and then worked with her for three months at the University of Sydney in 2017. I have been in regular contact with her since then.

I worked with Dr Tsoy on her epidemiological study of cognitive impairment among older people in Almaty. This work led to a good publication in a high quality international journal: *Tsoy R, Turuspekova ST, Klipitskaya NK, Mereke A, Cumming RG. Prevalence of Mild Cognitive Impairment among older people in Kazakhstan and potential risk factors. Alzheimer's Disease and Associated Disorders 2019; 33: 136-141.* This is a very important study because it is the first epidemiological study of cognitive impairment ever done in any country in Central Asia. It will be highly cited.

During Dr Tsoy's time in Sydney in 2017, I helped her plan her epidemiological study. This involved consideration of the best sampling methodology and the best way to ascertain cases of mild cognitive impairment and dementia. Together we decided on a 2-stage sampling design involving screening a representative sample of the general population of older people in Almaty, followed by a detailed clinical assessment of those who were screen-positive. We decided to use the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) as the screening instrument. Throughout this planning process, Dr Tsoy showed me that she is a very intelligent and hard-working young researcher.

After her time in Sydney, Dr Tsoy returned to Almaty to conduct her epidemiological study. Dr Tsoy did all the work of managing and implementing the study herself, as well as collecting much of the data. This was a huge undertaking and she is to be congratulated on successfully completing such a large (for a PhD) study with very limited resources. After the data were collected, I provided advice to Dr Tsoy, by skype and email, on statistical analysis of the data and on writing a paper reporting the study methods and findings.

Dr Radmila Tsoy has proven to me that she is an excellent researcher and I have no doubt at all that her work merits the award of a PhD. She completed a world class study of the epidemiology of cognitive impairment in Kazakhstan, a study of international significance. I consider her a future medical research leader.

Yours sincerely,

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