



**Example  
Letter of Support  
Clinical Scholar  
Social Work**

Dear review board members,

It is an honor and pleasure to write a letter of support for Catherine Daniels, LICSW application for clinical scholar. I have worked with Catherine for the past five years in my role as a Nurse Practitioner. We share the care of both inpatients and outpatients in the Oncology setting. The effects of cancer impact not only the patient, but also their friends and family and the world, as they know it. During that time I have referred some of my most challenging patients and families to Catherine knowing that her skill, knowledge and limitless compassion will allow them to address their concerns and issues.

I recently consulted Catherine on one of my patients a 45-year-old married man with the diagnosis of lung cancer. B was married with four young children and had completely shut down in discussing his disease and prognosis with his wife children and health care team. His inability to discuss what was occurring caused great pain and anger for his wife, confusion and behavioral issues for his children and frustration for his treatment team. Catherine first met B during his outpatient visit, a visit I expected would last a minute- the time for B to get up and leave, it lasted 20 minutes. "What happened? How did you do that?" I asked her. Catherine, as usual, deflected attention away from her own skill and ability and focused rather on what B needed and how we- the health care team- could best engage with him. Her insight- from the specifics on where to sit and how to begin our visits- to addressing the issues of treatment allowed us to engage with B in a way that would be impossible if we did not have a clinician as skilled as Catherine on our team. She met individually with B and his wife and children and called in a referral to the Parenting at a Challenging Time (PACT) to meet with the children and family.

I recently asked B what allowed him to let Catherine in, he told me that she entered his world and, he laughed when he said it, she did not seem in any hurry to leave it. Catherine stays present and engaged with her patients. She allows them to reflect on what is happening to them and their response to it. She allows them control and hope in situations where patients may feel both those qualities are in short supply.

Catherine runs support groups for patients and families facing cancer that are well attended and highly prized by the members. Catherine is able to pick up themes, issues or concerns raised in these sessions to work with all members of

the Cancer Center to create a health care environment that is responsive to and reflective of the needs of our patients and families.

I have learned a great deal from Catherine on how best to care for patients and families going through the cancer experience- she has made me a better nurse practitioner. She is to me the epitome of how an expert social worker practices and I support her application for clinical scholar without reservation.

Sincerely,

Sarah Quinn, RN, APN, BC