

Dear Madam/Sir:

It is a pleasure to write in support of Jamie Spahn's application for graduate study and research in marine biochemistry. Jamie is an exceptional person who cares a great deal about the chemistry of biological structures and processes. She has already worked for many years in various laboratory research projects, and she has developed a large repertoire of skills, along with very advanced knowledge. I highly recommend her for advanced study: You will find her to be intelligent, hard working, creative and a team player.

Jamie has loved science since childhood. Her mother has a degree in pharmacy and has worked in both academia, as a professor, and in applied industrial settings. Jamie has been very positively influenced by her mother and knows that she can switch back and forth between academia and nonacademic research laboratories.

Jamie has been interested in marine biology since middle school. She has worked at large public aquariums, where she has given talks and lectures to the public about marine life. She has had the opportunity to work on the Galapagos Islands, trying to remove invasive species, while also learning as much as she could from the stay on the islands. She also spent a "Semester at Sea," where she completed courses on marine science, maritime studies and oceanography at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. She did studies that were eventually published in a Science article.

She entered UCSB in the Creative Studies Program and taken advantage of the amazing freedom available in that program. For all four years here at UCSB she has worked in our biology and chemistry laboratories – involved in various projects focused on marine biochemistry. She has participated in research projects that are soon to be published as two separate articles in well-known journals. She loves laboratory research and enjoys the people who work on the projects in our biochemistry departments. She is taking one of my courses in the Department of Sociology in which she is doing quite well. We have had some wonderful intellectual conversations, revealing Jamie's broad range of knowledge and her awareness of the interconnectedness of numerous issues.

Currently she is studying a marine muscle that produces proteins for attaching the muscle to underwater substrates. In essence she is studying the production of underwater glues that are secreted by the muscles. There are many practical applications for advancing our science of underwater adhesives. She sees an ever-enlarging range of research topics that have the potential to expand our knowledge of living systems and the practical products that could be developed using this knowledge. Jamie is a hard working person who will advance science and relevant technological applications.

Jamie is a kind person with a wonderful sense of humor and an enthusiasm for life that everyone enjoys—traits that will make her very effective on research teams in any

laboratories where she might work. She has outstanding communication skills: She speaks clearly and dynamically, capturing your attention by the clarity of the direction in which she develops her logic. She is creative in solving problems and helping people work together cooperatively. She is a team player who is exceptionally well organized and makes sure that her work and the work of others are done professionally, carefully, and with attention to detail. She is well liked by her peers—and by the faculty with whom she works. Jamie is one of the most intelligent and honest people you could hope to know.

In summary, I think Jamie is a truly amazing person who will make many valuable contributions. Jamie is forward looking, with the ability to plan her time and activities to attain long-term goals. In addition to having a keen mind, she is serious, conscientious, and very responsible. She is both an excellent student and a happy, well-adjusted person with whom it is a pleasure to work. Jamie earns my highest level of recommendation. If I can be of any further help to you, please do not hesitate to phone me at (805) 967-4995.

Sincerely,

John D. Baldwin  
Professor  
baldwin@soc.ucsb.edu