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To Whom It May Concern:

As a neurologist and basic neuroscientist at the University of California, Los Angeles, I am acutely aware of the increasing importance of utilizing techniques of Eastern contemplative practice, not only to improve quality of life and treat certain medical and psychiatric disease, but also as a tool for investigating fundamental neuronal mechanisms that constitute consciousness and the human mind. There are very few places in the world that bridge the disciplines of meditation and Western brain science to the extent proposed for the center in Tuscany. Dr. B. Alan Wallace has been a leader in promoting this area of investigation, in part through his highly successful Santa Barbara Institute for Consciousness Studies, and also, more importantly, through his extensive lectures and workshops worldwide. The Center for Contemplative Research in Tuscany will provide an important, and unique, opportunity not only to offer the advantages of meditative practice to enhance the lives of individuals, and treat disease, but to provide subjects for innovative neuroscientific research into the human mind.

I am extremely pleased to see that the Center for Contemplative Research in Tuscany is coming to fruition and wholeheartedly endorse this effort. I anticipate that it will become the focus of major contributions to improving the lives of individual participants, and furthering neuroscientific investigations into the brain and mind that will result in the development of approaches for the betterment of society worldwide.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Engel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jerome Engel, Jr., MD, PhD
Jonathan Sinay Distinguished Professor of Neurology,
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