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The University of Texas
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To whom it may concern:

I am happy to recommend Mr. Manikantan R Nair for the joint PhD program IIT Kharagpur and University of Manchester. I met Manikantan during my visit to University of Kerala and the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology in Thiruvananthapuram, India, in December of 2018. I was introduced to a number of students, but I kept communicating specifically with Manikantan through our recurring online discussions of neuroscience and engineering. Despite the long distance, we kept our contact for over three years, exchanging science-related references, discussing many science-related topics, e.g., subjects in Data Analysis, Engineering Mechanics, Neuroscience and Neuro-engineering, Operations Research, etc. We also discussed Manikantan's career plans, his interest in engineering industry and related disciplines.

A about a year ago, I offered him a research project involving neurophysiological data analyses. The plan was that he would produce software for analyzing MEG and EEG data, perform computational modeling of their properties, work on the literature, etc. I am currently involved in a number of similar research projects with many students; I hoped that Manikantan would be able to visit my group at the final stages of his project's development, but unfortunately COVID19 intervened.

Over my career, I have taught and supervised students (including international students) at Rice University, Wesleyan University, Brown University, Baylor College of Medicine, University of Texas and University of California San Francisco. I would rank Mr. Manikantan R Nair among the most motivated individuals, passionate about his work, devoted and persistent, with a broad outlook. At this time Mr. Manikantan R Nair has completed Bachelor of Technology in Mechanical Engineering with Distinction and Master of Technology in Technology Management at the University of Kerala, and is ready to pursue his career further. I am also aware that he has recently performed a machine learning project for predicting the materials that can improve the efficiency of solar cells and that he has made several very successful presentations at national conferences, including the conference organized by the Indian Space Research Organization. He is very good at articulating his ideas and his perspective on the subject and has an excellent knowledge of English language. He also has a teaching experience and is in general very highly regarded by the faculty and by his peers. He is also actively involved in local industrial community and actively contributes to social activities.

Overall, Manikantan has proved himself an outstanding researcher, mature and responsible, and I am certain that he is academically and intellectually well fit for a graduate program. I know that it

is his specific goal to join IIT Kharagpur/UM PhD program, and I believe that he will be a very good fit. On a more personal level, he is a very responsive, gentle person, very motivated and self-disciplined and I support his application most strongly. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further inquiries.

Sincerely,

Yuri Dabaghian, PhD

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