



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**



**Dr. Eddy Kizana** MBBS PhD FRACP

Associate Professor, Sydney Medical School  
Cardiologist, Westmead Hospital (Provider Number: 2107925X)  
Centre Co-Director and Group Leader, The Westmead Institute for Medical Research

---

6 December 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: Mr Mark Smith, BSc (Hons)**

It gives me great pleasure to write in support of Mark Smith. I have known him for a little over 20 years in my capacity as cardiologist and gene therapy researcher at the Westmead Health Precinct and Research Hub. He has figured prominently in the development of my research career from its beginning. My interactions with Mark have been through his capacity as Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD) Research Grants Administration Officer, Secretary Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) and more recently as Research Development Manager.

Mark was highly adept as grant administrative officer. He searched broadly for research funding opportunities and regularly and frequently advertised these for Westmead researchers. Beyond this, he deliberately reviewed grant applications internally and provided very helpful feedback on form and content. Through his years of experience, he understood the various funding schemes intimately and how to pitch a successful application. This was very helpful for new and experienced researchers alike.

Mark was highly regarded and respected in his capacity as secretary of the IBC. He had a robust understanding of gene technology and the Gene Technology Act derived from working in this space for almost three decades. The scope of the IBC's activities encompassed assessment of protocols for WSLHD, Nepean-Blue Mountains LHD and The Westmead Institute for Medical Research and included NLRDs, DNIRs and recently a DIR. Additionally, the IBC undertook the annual PC2 & PC3 inspections for these organisations. Mark enabled exciting, high-level and often cutting-edge research to be undertaken at Westmead within the limits proscribed by the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator. When doubt arose around research protocols he would seek clarity from the Regulator and advocate for researchers to the best of his ability. More recently Mark has facilitated the use of advanced therapeutics (gene therapy and CAR-T cells) in early phase clinical trials, positioning Westmead as a national leader.

Over the last five years I have worked directly with Mark in my capacity as Chair of the IBC. Mark works to a very high standard and often inspires those around him to do the same. He is diligent, competent and reliable making him highly effective in whatever role he is working in and also a pleasure to work with.

Yours Sincerely,



**Department of Cardiology, Westmead Hospital**  
Tel: (+612) 8890 6795 | Fax: (+612) 8890 8323  
PO Box 533, Wentworthville, NSW, Australia 2145