



University of Oxford
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20 March 1996

To whom it may concern,

Reference for **Alex Garrett**

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I knew Alex throughout his time in the Clinical Trial Service Unit at the University of Oxford and, subsequently, while I was a Visiting Fellow at the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre in Sydney. At the Clinical Trial Service Unit, Alex worked under my supervision to develop a major database (in Ingres) which is used to manage a very substantial part of the Unit's work, involving the close collaboration of more than 1000 trial groups worldwide and a large amount of detailed information. The database that Alex worked on is essential to this process and had to be designed and built from almost nothing. Alex had an important role in both of these aspects. The designing was done in consultation between myself, other senior researchers and Alex but the building was Alex's responsibility and I think he did this very well. His ideas on how the database could be improved to better meet our needs were also welcome and useful.

Alex also proved very useful to the Unit generally as we struggled to improve our computer management systems and to upgrade the computer hardware and software that are necessary to the successful operation of the Unit which employs nearly 100 people, including 15 computer programmers. He also helped to establish a system which allowed for closer liaison between these programmers and the senior researchers in the Unit. We were, therefore, disappointed when Alex decided to leave the Unit to establish a career elsewhere.

Alex is honest and trustworthy, and pleasant to work with.

If I can help by providing any further information please contact me at the above address or by email to CLARKEMJ@VAX.OX.AC.UK.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Clarke

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