



Cadence Neuroscience Institute
Winfield Illinois USA

T 1 (630) 933-4056
ajfishman@mac.com

www.andrewfishmanmd.com

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the candidacy Dr. Piotr Winkler to the position of Manager of the Neurosurgery Department at your hospital. I have known Dr. Winkler since 2005 when we began performing cranial base surgery at

Nicolaus Copernicus University Collegium Medicum Bydgoszcz. In 2007 I was appointed as Visiting International Professor and have continued to collaborate with Dr. Winkler in that position. We have performed numerous complex surgeries together over the years. He has also performed scores more with Dr. Jozef Mierzwinski our partner in the development of the Cranial Base Surgery Program there. Dr. Winkler is a talented and highly skilled surgeon whom I respect and have always felt secure working with. He has also exhibited a real sense of doctoring by making decisions that place the wellbeing of his patients above all else. Our work together has taken care of some of the most challenging cases. Cooperation with Dr. Winkler has allowed our team to care for patients with a variety of problems including acoustic neuroma, petroclival meningiomas, chordomas and neurofibromatosis. Outcomes have been excellent due to his skill and experience.

In 2008, Dr. Winkler participated in sentinel research performing the first human stimulation of a neural system with an infrared laser device in collaboration with engineers from Northwestern University. This work has provided the foundation for continued development in neural stimulation, which is ongoing, and now entering the final stages of development of an implantable neural stimulation system to supplement hearing. We were comfortable to proceed with this pioneering work because we had the support of Dr. Winkler to care and provide expert surgery in our patients.

In addition to working with Dr. Mierswinski, and myself, Dr. Winkler has travelled to India to work at the Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences with another one of my colleagues, Dr. Dilip Panikar. I spent 2005-2006 working at that center as well, and am certain that Dr. Winkler gained valuable experience there given the immense volume of cases and high complexity seen in the Indian population.

Dr. Piotr Winkler is among the best Neurosurgeons that I have collaborated with over the years and I would consider it fortunate for your institution should he be appointed as a leader. I offer my highest recommendation without reservations.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Fishman M.D.

Director of Neurotology and Cranial Base Surgery