

28/05/2024

To Oceania Chondrichthyan Society

Letter of Support for Lifetime Achievement Award

It is my absolute pleasure to be writing this letter in support of Professor Colin Simpfendorfer's nomination for the OCS Lifetime Achievement and Membership Award. Since 2016, I have had the privilege to work with Colin in various capacities, and during this time, I have witnessed his unwavering dedication and outstanding contributions to the field of Chondrichthyan biology and conservation at both national and international levels.

From our very first meeting, Colin has guided me with patience, integrity, and genuine care. He has been a steady source of calm and reason during times of uncertainty, encouraging me to focus on the broader impact of my work rather than get caught up in temporary setbacks. His belief in my potential, especially during moments when I doubted myself, has had a lasting influence on my professional growth. Whether it was presenting at a conference or deciding the course of my PhD, Colin consistently offered thoughtful mentorship and created a safe, supportive space for me to develop as a scientist.

What stands out most to me is Colin's approach to mentorship. He cultivates not only intellectual curiosity and critical thinking but also promotes inclusivity and collaboration—qualities that are essential for meaningful scientific progress. His example has deeply shaped my values and will continue to influence the way I work in the future.

In every sense, Professor Simpfendorfer exemplifies the spirit of this award. His decades of contribution, leadership, and mentorship have left a profound mark on the field and on the many individuals fortunate enough to work with him. There is no doubt in my mind that he is exceptionally deserving of this award, and I offer my strongest support for his nomination for this well-deserved and distinguished honour.

Kind regards,

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