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Prix Galien USA Awards Judges: Best Startup

The Prix Galien Foundation

Dear Judges,

I write this letter in support of HealthRhythms and their innovative product, the Cue platform, for the Prix Galien Award for best digital health startup of 2023. My assessment is based on over three decades of experience in psychiatric research and clinical practice, including a strong focus on schizophrenia, treatment development, services research, and technology. I had the privilege of leading the Department of Psychiatry at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell for 34 years, and currently serve as the Co-Director of the Institute of Behavioral Science for the Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research at Northwell Health.

My substantial expertise in the field has led to my involvement with numerous government and professional bodies, having chaired the Psychopharmacologic Drugs Advisory Committee of the US FDA, served on the Board of Scientific Counselors for the National Institute of Mental Health, and as President of the Psychiatric Research Society, the American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology and the Schizophrenia International Research Society. I have also been the principal investigator on 23 NIMH grants and have authored or co-authored over 900 publications in peer-reviewed journals.

This background equips me to thoroughly evaluate innovations in the field of mental health treatment, such as the HealthRhythms platform. My long-standing commitment to improving the quality and cost of mental health care, enhancing access through digital technology, and pioneering new strategies for patient engagement aligns with the mission and approach of HealthRhythms.

The Cue platform, with its unique application of what may be considered the first Behavioral Vital Signs and patient-specific digital biomarkers, has the potential to achieve the promise of personalized psychiatric medicine. The unique positioning of this platform arises from its ability to

exploit scientifically established physiological and behavioral rhythms to generate valuable patient-specific insights that are relevant to diagnostic evaluation, treatment selection and monitoring patient course. This approach, distinct from current market offerings, signifies a leap towards individualized psychiatric care, thereby addressing a significant unmet need.

Working from a social rhythm regulation model that focuses on the importance of regularity of daily routines to mental health, HealthRhythms has developed a digital platform for the continuous, objective monitoring of behaviors relevant to mental disorders. These inferences naturally grouped into three categories based on HealthRhythm's conceptual model: behavioral proxies for sleep, activity, and social interaction, as well as the rhythmicity of each of these behavioral features. HealthRhythms' co-founders are in the process of submitting a paper suggesting that the nearly ubiquitous commercial smartphone may provide a practical way of obtaining continuous, objective behavioral measurements that could be considered the kind of vital signs that have proven invaluable to assessment and treatment decision-making in physical medicine.

In the context of the current advances in digital health technologies, there is a need to integrate behavioral vital signs alongside traditional physical ones. By employing algorithms that exploit the scientifically established significance of physiological and behavioral rhythms in disease progression, these tools generate personalized digital biomarkers. These biomarkers can effectively chart variations in health status, particularly in the realms of behavioral health and chronic medical disorders. Furthermore, they can inform patient-specific interventions and enable their real-time monitoring.

The conventional diagnosis of mental health disorders primarily relies on data derived from infrequent and short clinical consultations. However, the patient's daily functioning can be difficult to assess accurately in such settings. In contrast, digital behavioral biomarkers promise a transformative approach by offering continuous real-world assessments of functioning, bridging the gaps between appointments. It is designed to facilitate accurate diagnosis, assess day-to-day functional variability, evaluate the impact of treatment strategies, and predict significant health changes before they are self-reported. Importantly, these data and insights are broadly applicable across all aspects of behavioral health care, irrespective of the severity of the condition.

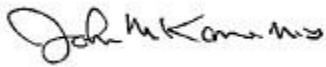
This innovative approach, which blends behavioral and physical vital signs, has the potential to establish a new standard of care for mental health. Supported by the insights derived from these personalized digital biomarkers, patients and their care teams can make more precise assessments, swiftly identify the proper level of care, monitor health status and the effects of interventions in real-time, and understand when to respond to changes. This data-driven approach places the patient's own data at the forefront, ensuring that care is informed and scheduled based on this data.

HealthRhythms' approach to addressing the challenges in the digital measurement and biomarker market, from integration with Electronic Health Records and Contract Research Organizations, to

data privacy and regulatory compliance, indicates a strong understanding of the field and its complexities. The scientific evidence supporting their Cue platform is robust. The four co-founder scientists, two of whom are among the most respected women in their respective fields, are considered pioneers in the domains of mental health measurement and digital behavioral biomarkers.

In conclusion, I firmly believe that HealthRhythms and their Cue platform deserve recognition through the Prix Galien Award as the best digital health startup of 2023. Their innovation, dedication to the field, and potential to significantly impact psychiatric medicine make them more than worthy of this prestigious accolade.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Kane, M.D.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John M. Kane, M.D.