



30 October 2005

**CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Dear Immigration Officer

RE : DR JACK SHEVEL

I am an Executive Officer of Imperial Bank Limited, a registered financial services provider operating in the Republic of South Africa. The shareholders of Imperial Bank are Nedbank Limited, one of the four largest banks in South Africa and Imperial Holdings Limited, the largest industrial conglomerate in South Africa. Both Nedbank and Imperial Holdings are listed on the Johannesburg Securities Exchange. Within Imperial Bank, I am the Managing Executive of Imperial Medical Finance, a business unit which operates in both the retail and corporate medical markets.

Prior to joining Imperial Bank, I served on the Board of Directors and was an Executive Officer of MLS Bank Limited, a bank that focused on the medical and dental niche markets. I served at MLS Bank for some twenty years. MLS Bank was one of the pioneers in the private hospital industry in South Africa and played a meaningful role in this industry over a period of some fifteen years. I was and remain, through the offices Imperial Bank, closely involved with the private hospital industry in South Africa, having an involvement in most of the large developments in South Africa and a good perspective on the experience curve in the medical business.

With this career experience in mind, I write to affirm Dr Shevel's extraordinary ability as an executive in the private hospital industry. Dr Shevel was an early participant in and an initiator of the creation of a robust private hospital industry, in South Africa, which has subsequently become recognized as amongst the best in the world.

Being a visionary and having great foresight, Dr Shevel made a thorough and hugely successful change from a medical general practitioner to create the largest and most successful private hospital group in South Africa, ranking equally with the best facilities in the world.

Dr Shevel set out to build an undertaking of note from the most humble beginnings, while, at the same time, acting to bring together players operating in the industry, encouraging investors and bankers to place their confidence in the plan of business and garnering the support of medical practitioners. Ultimately he developed what must rank as one of the biggest and most successful physician orientated medical establishments in the world, with a value of some R11 billion.

He was also able, at times at the request of banks and investors, to undertake bold and difficult business cases and assignments and was able to put into place some of

the most astonishing business turn-arounds, moving enterprises from positions of great operational and financial struggle to sound health and value. Dr Shevel's record of turn-arounds is truly outstanding and his innovative practices are now being incorporated into the National Health Service in the UK, further underscoring their importance

My experience with Dr Shevel indicates that he is a brilliant, unusual and remarkable marketer and strategist, capable of exceeding all expectations and succeeding in one of the most competitive business environments. He is held in high esteem by the personnel of Netcare, the organization that had as its foundation a simple day clinic in Johannesburg, as well as all those who are associated with him, even his business adversaries.

Dr Shevel has, without any doubt, reached a level of success and attained an extraordinary reputation, position and level of prosperity in business and, against that background, has retained the tenet of decency.

Dr Shevel will undoubtedly continue to add enormous value to any business, community or country in which he may live and serve. I am of the opinion that, given his renown and experience, both in South Africa and worldwide, he will be a great asset to the USA.

I remain at your disposal.

Yours faithfully,


GERARD CLOETE
EXECUTIVE OFFICER