

Letter of Recommendation – Ilya Kotlov

We, Alexandra Gilinsky and Itamar Talmi, are senior algorithm and machine learning engineers at Given Imaging, a subsidiary of Medtronic. As part of our collaboration with the Technion (Israel institute of technology), we occasionally supervise industrial projects at the computer science department.

In the Spring semester of 2021, while studying at the computer science department, Ilya decided to take one of the most challenging projects under our guidance, working solo. The project focused on implementing an advanced method for training a deep neural network with "attention maps," aiming at achieving classification improvement as well as localization and explainability. The adaptation of this method to our very specific and irregular dataset (PillCam images) was a non-trivial task, requiring advanced problem-solving skills.

Ilya has done outstanding work with this challenging project, demonstrating a strong passion for research combined with high technical abilities. He worked very hard solving many complicated technical issues that used to arise frequently during the work. He performed research, did not hesitate to contact the authors of articles, consulted professional forums, and eagerly did everything he could to make this concept work. Despite working on the project alone, the amount of work Ilya has completed has far exceeded our expectations, even compared to a pair of students (which is usually the case for such projects).

On a personal level, we really enjoyed our work with Ilya. In addition to his hard work and motivation, he demonstrated strong personal skills, ability to work independently, as well as consulting when needed. His eagerness to perform any task with excitement made the process of guiding him a pleasure for us. We strongly believe that Ilya is a great candidate to proceed to higher academic degree studies, or to be integrated into the industry, as part of a team, in the field of machine learning.

Best regards,

Itamar Talmi - itamar.talmi@medtronic.com, Tel: 054-5458828

Sr. Algorithms Engineer | R&D Imaging & Analytics

Alexandra Gilinsky - alexandra.gilinsky@medtronic.com, Tel: 050-7722630

Sr. Algorithms Engineer | R&D Imaging & Analytics

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