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July 14, 2008

To Whomever it May Concern,

I am writing in strong support of the application of Dr. Riccardo Pellegrino for the position of Full Professor. I have known Dr. Pellegrino for more than ten years and believe that he has a well-deserved International reputation for the research he has done in the field of pulmonary function and lung mechanics.

In addition to his training in Italy, Dr. Pellegrino had the great good fortune to work for an extended period in the early 1990s in the laboratory of Dr. Joseph Rodarte at Baylor University College of Medicine in the United States. Dr. Rodarte was one of the most outstanding contributors of his generation to our understanding of lung mechanics and I believe that his example served as an inspiration for Dr. Pellegrino's successful career.

I personally have been aware of Dr. Pellegrino's work since the early 1990s. It is through my involvement with the Pulmonary Laboratory Standards Committee of the American Thoracic Society that I came to work with him closely for an extended period. This committee is tasked with promulgating the standards by which clinical pulmonary laboratory testing is performed in the United States. A similar committee is tasked by the European Respiratory Society to doing the same in Europe. Dr. Pellegrino is a long-time member of the European group. In the early years of the new century, a plan was formulated for the two groups to work together to create unified standards for the both Europe and America, with the hope that they would be adopted worldwide. Dr. Pellegrino and I worked on this joint effort. This effort was rewarded in 2005 with a series of five hefty publications in the European Respiratory Journal in which these standards were established. The last of the series addressed interpretive strategies for pulmonary laboratory testing. It was almost entirely novel and was the most controversial of the group of publications. Dr. Pellegrino played a key role in composing this document (and was the lead author) and guiding it towards consensus of the committee members. It is a major contribution to the literature and serves as guidance for many thousands of laboratories worldwide.

Dr. Pellegrino lectures extensively in Italy and abroad on the topics of lung mechanics, pulmonary function testing, chronic obstructive lung disease and related topics. I always enjoy hearing him speak. He is author to a large number of publications. Notably, he authored several recent editorials and commentaries in major journals that reflect his stature as an authority in his chosen field.

If I can be of further assistance, I would be glad to be contacted by phone in the United States at 310 222-8200 or by e-mail at casaburi@ucla.edu

Sincerely,

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