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To whom it may concern,

I am pleased to write a strong and thoroughly positive letter in support of Dr. Riccardo Pellegrino and his qualifications for promotion to the rank of full Professor. I have known Dr. Pellegrino since the early 1990's, at which time he was Visiting Assistant Professor at Baylor College of Medicine and working there with Dr. Joseph Rodarte. I have followed Dr. Pellegrino's career with some interest and feel that I know him and his work reasonably well.

Dr. Pellegrino's training is in pulmonary medicine. This background proved to be a useful foundation for his later investigations of allergy, airway reactivity in asthma, and their relationship to the pivotal role of deep inspirations in that process. Under the guidance of Dr. Rodarte, as well as from Dr. Theodore Wilson of the University of Minnesota and Dr. Vito Brusasco, Dr. Pellegrino's attention focused upon excessive airway narrowing in asthma, and has subsequently broadened into the role of exercise. Dr. Pellegrino is also recognized as a world authority in pulmonary function testing more generally. But the role of deep inspirations is very important to the pathobiology of asthma and remains poorly understood, and it is his work on this complex phenomenon for which he is best known.

In the trajectory of his career, Dr. Pellegrino has bridged airway biology, smooth muscle physiology, and allergy as few do. He has immersed himself into biological questions and developed his own intellectual agenda. He has made important contributions to the literature, and in doing so he has clearly established himself as an independent investigator. This status is reflected not only in his excellent record of publication, but also in the prominent role that he has played in international societies and collaborative publications.

Taken together, this evidence leads me to believe that Dr. Pellegrino is well qualified for promotion to the rank of Professor. As such, I support his promotion with great enthusiasm and without reservation.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey J. Fredberg, Ph.D.