

July 13th, 2008

Rolf D. Hubmayr, MD
Phone 507-255-6302
FAX 507-284-4521
E-mail rhubmayr@mayo.edu

To whom it may concern

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for Dr Riccardo Pellegrino, who is considered for promotion to the rank of tenured Professor. I have known Dr Pellegrino for approximately fifteen years. We share similar scientific interests in the areas of lung mechanics and respiratory physiology and I am very familiar with his work. I regularly interact with Dr Pellegrino at scientific meetings and during the manuscript review process. Let me state from the outset that I consider Dr Pellegrino to be an outstanding physician-scientist, who is well respected by his peers and who has made many important contributions to our understanding of lung and airway biology in health and disease.

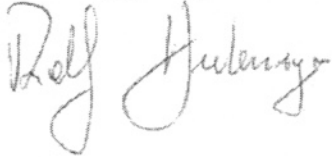
Dr Pellegrino is a bright and talented individual who has proven quite innovative in advancing his science. He is not intimidated by new challenges, is ready to adopt new experimental approaches to answer questions that are fundamental to biology as well as clinical medicine. He has authored more than 65 original articles in highly respected clinical and biomedical journals and his contributions continue to gain in innovation, quality and impact. In particular, I admire his recent papers on the effects of a deep breath on in airway smooth muscle tone.

I will not detail Dr. Pellegrino's accomplishments that are readily apparent from his curriculum vitae except to point out that I consider him one of the thought leaders in lung function testing and respiratory physiology. His standing in the field is also underscored by his many invited plenary presentations, his extensive collaborations with leaders in the field and his contributions to expert reports and consensus guidelines of multinational professional societies. He has proven to be a supportive and effective mentor and has helped launch the research careers of several young investigators. Finally, as past Associate Editor of the *American Journal of Critical Care Medicine* and of the *Journal of Applied Physiology* I have come to appreciate Dr Pellegrino's insightful reviews on matters concerning respiratory physiology, airway biology and lung function testing.

In summary, Dr Pellegrino has reached all the milestones one would expect for a tenured Professor of a respected academic institution. There is little question that Dr. Pellegrino would be

promoted to full Professor of Medicine and Physiology at my Institution. Therefore, I endorse his promotion to tenured Professor with the **HIGHEST LEVEL OF ENTHUSIASM**.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rolf D. Hubmayr". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Rolf D. Hubmayr, MD
Walter and Leonore Annenberg Professor of Cardiology and Critical Care
Professor of Medicine and Physiology
Mayo Clinic