



**UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE**

FACULTÉ DE MÉDECINE

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To the attention of the Appointment  
Committee for the position of Full Professor  
for Dr Ricardo Pellegrino .

Friday, 04 July 2008

**Concern:**  
***Letter of recommendation for Dr Ricardo Pellegrino***

To the members of the Appointment Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I write these lines to recommend Dr Ricardo Pellegrino for a position of Full Professor.

I met Dr Pellegrino a couple of years ago when we shared an exciting research project looking at the effects of hypobaric hypoxia on bronchial responsiveness and pulmonary mechanics during exercise. Dr Pellegrino is a well known expert in the field of pulmonary medicine and have directly been able to witness his level of excellence as a researcher and clinician with a strong grounding in physiology.

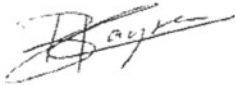
In order to ground my recommendation of Dr Pelegrino in some evidence I have analysed his scientific productivity. It is quite impressive. As of July 2008 his H-factor is 22, i.e. he has published 22 papers that have been cited at least 22 times in other scientific articles. Indeed, it is one thing to publish many papers, but the real impact of scientific publications is not a matter of the number of publications or the Impact Factors of the journals in which one publishes, but rather the number of times one's papers are cited by colleague scientists. Dr Pelegrino's productivity is good in this regard and well up to the level expected of a Full Professor. The citations to his papers total more than 2000 with an average of more than 12 per paper. Several of Dr Pelegrino's papers are exceptionally well-cited, like his article *Interpretative strategies for lung function tests* published in 2005 in the European Respiratory Journal which has been cited 230 times since its publication, an average of 58 per year!

Dr. Pellegrino is also exceptionally well connected cooperating since many years with several distinguished and outstanding scientists and research groups at national and international levels.

These collaborations include Prof. Vito Brusasco from Genoa (Italy), with whom Dr. Pellegrino has extensively and uninterruptedly cooperated for the last 20 years in the field of lung mechanics; Profs Rodarte and Reid, contacts dating from Dr Pellegrino's period as Visiting Assistant Professor at the prestigious Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, USA; Prof. Peter T. Macklem at McGill University, Montreal, Canada in the field of lung mechanics and airway responsiveness in humans; Prof Robert E Hyatt from Mayo Clinic, MN, USA on scientific projects on lung function and airway responsiveness in obesity; Dr Michael Goldman developing a new methodology to measure thoracic gas volume in the body plethysmograph without closing the shutter; Dr Theodore Wilson from Minneapolis, on a project testing the hypothesis that ventilation distribution becomes bimodal according to the depth of breathing after exposing healthy subjects to inhaled methacholine; Profs Raffaele Dellacà, Andrea Aliverti, and Antonio Pedotti from the Politecnico of Milan (Italy) on several protocols involving forced oscillation technique and optoelectronic plethysmography; and several collaborations on a national level including the University of Florence (Prof. Scano), the University of Pavia (Prof. Pozzi and Dr. Cerveri), the S. Luigi Hospital of Turin (Dr. Gulotta and dr. Torchio), and the Monzino Cardiologic Institute from Milan (Prof. Pier Giuseppe Agostoni).

Dr Pelegrino clearly represents an exceptionally promising candidate combining strong clinical skills, solid knowledge, high quality research productivity, a well developed network and pleasant personal characteristics. I can only strongly recommend the Committee to consider Dr Ricardo Pelegrino for the position of Full Professor.

Yours sincerely,



Prof Bengt KAYSER, MD, PhD