

To Whom It May Concern:

3 July, 2008

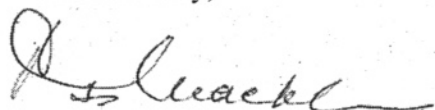
**Re: Dr Riccardo Pellegrino**

This letter is in support of Dr Riccardo Pellegrino's application for a full-professorship. I have known Dr Pellegrino well for over ten years, have collaborated with him in research, and have participated in many stimulating discussions on the mechanics of breathing. In this area of research Dr Pellegrino has made many contributions to new knowledge, particularly in the pathophysiology of asthma and chronic obstructive lung disease. Over a period of 19 years he has published 68 papers in excellent peer-reviewed journals, 4 book chapters and has 9 manuscripts in preparation. All this was accomplished without an academic university appointment! In North America, such scientific productivity outside academia is unheard of and demonstrates Dr Pellegrino's remarkable commitment and strong motivation to develop new knowledge. In addition to productivity his accomplishments prove that he is an independent investigator with an original mind, qualities essential for a full professorship. He has had excellent training with Prof. Joe Rodarte in Houston Texas where he learned how to develop testable hypotheses, use appropriate methods to answer the questions he posed, conduct the experiments, correctly analyze and interpret the data and write the papers for publication.

His specific contributions to new knowledge include a detailed studies over a number of years, of the importance of deep inspirations in the control of airway smooth muscle tone, and the failure of this regulation as a major cause of excessive bronchoconstriction in asthma. This has stimulated a great deal of research by other investigators, in particular by giants in the field such as Prof. Jeff Fredberg of Harvard, Prof. Sol Permutt of Johns Hopkins and Prof Julian Solway of the University of Chicago. Recently he has branched out in two new directions to investigate the heterogeneity of airways obstruction in asthma and the significance of exaggerated short term variability of respiratory impedance as measured by the forced oscillation technique in asthma. Specifically he will determine if excessive impedance variability is a predictor of asthmatic attacks. If so this would make prognosis quantifiable. As his productivity shows no signs of declining, I predict that his contributions in these new research areas will be just as important as his demonstration of the importance of the failure of deep breaths to control airway smooth muscle shortening in asthma.

In addition to his scientific accomplishments, Dr Pellegrino has had considerable experience teaching nurses and clinicians at a variety of postgraduate courses. He is invited to do this because, as a result of his research contributions, he has established a strong national and international reputation of excellence for himself. Indeed his c.v. reveals an almost overwhelming number of invited lectures and seminars he gives each year in Italy, as well as many lectureships and invited seminars in North America and Europe. Clearly he is highly qualified to assume an academic position as full professor and I recommend him to you with great enthusiasm.

Yours sincerely,



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