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Dr Riccardo Pellegrino

I am pleased to write in strong support of Dr Pellegrino's application for recognition as a Professor in the field of Respiratory Medicine and Respiratory Physiology. I first became familiar with his published research in the early 1990s and first met him at international meetings in the same period. Most of his research in applied respiratory physiology has been in areas where at some time I have had a special interest, so that I rapidly became aware from his first papers that his research was of a high calibre and contributed significantly at the international level to understanding of respiratory mechanics. Since the early 1990s his research has remained consistently productive and has been repeatedly published in the most competitive international journals in the specialty, in the clinical field- American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, Chest and Thorax (as well as the European Respiratory Journal)-, and in the leading international journal for respiratory physiology, the Journal of Applied Physiology (over 20 papers, many as first or last author).

His curriculum vitae indicates that he is much in demand throughout Italy as a lecturer on various topics in applied respiratory physiology. Inevitably I am less familiar with this teaching side of his career, but on several occasions I have heard him give excellent review talks at the annual meetings of the European Respiratory Society. His international standing has been shown by his selection to join the group updating the recent ATS/ERS guidelines on pulmonary function testing and by his numerous co-operations with leading investigators, starting with the late Professor J Rodarte in Texas and continuing particularly with Dr RE Hyatt at the Mayo Clinic. Notwithstanding these joint projects, a particularly praiseworthy aspect of much of his research is that it has been conceived and carried out with his own hands while involved in a busy clinical service in a hospital without, I believe, a previous tradition in this discipline. This indicates he must be a very well organised and efficient doctor and administrator. Indeed the way in which he rapidly

established himself as a respected investigator is a welcome reminder that determined, enthusiastic and intelligent individuals like Dr Pellegrino can still achieve a great deal without the support of large departments, large teams of research workers and extensive research funds,

For the reasons outlined above and fully described in his impressive curriculum vitae, I strongly recommend that Dr Pellegrino's research and teaching achievements should be recognised by the award of the title of Professor.

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