

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES DIVISION
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Re: Riccardo Pellegrino, MD
Promotion to Full Professor

Dear Colleagues:

I am delighted to provide my strongest possible support for Dr. Riccardo Pellegrino's promotion to Full Professor. My own research program addresses airway responsiveness and airway smooth muscle function in asthma, and so I have closely followed Dr. Pellegrino's work in respiratory mechanics and physiology closely for two decades. We have interacted at international meetings on several occasions, and I have had the chance to observe Dr. Pellegrino's outstanding intellect and insights first hand.

Dr. Pellegrino's most important contributions have been in two areas: 1) the determinants of severity and physiological mechanisms of airflow obstruction, with particular emphasis on functional interactions between lung inflation and airway caliber, and 2) standardization of pulmonary function evaluation procedures and results interpretation. Dr. Pellegrino was one of the first to delineate mechanisms by which deep breaths antagonize bronchoconstriction, and his work highlights the impairment of this bronchoprotective mechanism in asthma as an important likely pathophysiological mechanism contributing to the excessive airflow obstruction seen in this disease. Reflecting the impact of these findings, other laboratories (including my own) are now exploring ways to magnify the beneficial influence of breathing on bronchoconstriction. The high esteem in which Dr. Pellegrino is held is reflected in his numerous invitations to speak at symposia and universities throughout Italy and internationally, in his invitation to referee papers for outstanding peer review journals, in his service on guidelines development task forces, and in his lead authorship on an official statement of the American Thoracic Society and the European Respiratory Society concerning interpretation of lung function testing in 2005. I have every expectation that Dr. Pellegrino will continue to advance our understanding of the nature and treatment of airflow obstruction.

I have served for several years on the University of Chicago Biological Science Division Committee on Appointments and Promotions, and I am confident that Dr. Pellegrino would be promoted to full professor were he at our institution. I hope that you will award this promotion, which is richly deserved. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Julian Solway, MD