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**To whom it may concern**

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This letter serves to confirm my view on the scientific stature of Dr Riccardo Pellegrino, MD, Ospedaliera S. Croce e Carle, Cuneo, Italy.

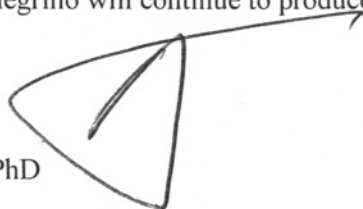
I know Dr Pellegrino as very active and driven colleague in the international field of respiratory pathophysiology. He has a long track record in combining fundamental questions on airway mechanics with a clear view on its implications for clinical medicine. At present, medical research attempts to link cell biology to clinical diagnosis and treatment. The critical link between these two is the relation between structure and function. Particularly in lung diseases, such as asthma and COPD. Dr Pellegrino is spending his career on bridging this gap, by carefully studying the implications of cell biology to the dynamics of airway function, and subsequently to reveal the clinical implications of this in patients with varying severity of airway disease.

Dr Pellegrino has an excellent reputation. He belongs to the top 5 scientists in Europe, who are able to perform observational and experimental studies on airway pathophysiology in patients and healthy volunteers, as opposed to the many others who are addressing this in experimental animals. The key studies need to be done 'in life' in patients who suffer from disease. Because this is difficult there are only few centers that qualify for this. This is why Dr Pellegrino has gained a very strong position in the international field of asthma research.

I know him as a very collaborative, highly communicable colleague, who inspires young investigators by discussing their work at international meetings. As editor of the European Respiratory Journal, I very much appreciate Dr Pellegrino's analysis and comments on the latest scientific manuscripts. He is critical in a positive way, and constantly tries to find new ways to solve some of the main problems in respiratory medicine.

I am confident that Dr Pellegrino will continue to produce and to grow as a medical scientist.

Yours sincerely,



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 University of Amsterdam