SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Office of the Dean

January 13, 2011

Faculty Appointments and Advancement
Academic Affairs/Dean of Faculties Office
IUPUI
AO 126

Dear Colleagues:

It is my pleasure to offer my strongest support in nominating Professor Susan J. Gunst for advancement to the rank of Chancellor's Professor.

Chancellor's Professorships are given only to IUPUI faculty who demonstrate consistent, long-term excellence in all three areas of faculty work, and this is precisely what Dr. Gunst has done since she began her faculty career at Mayo Medical School, and certainly since she joined the IU School of Medicine faculty in 1989.

A full professor in the Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, Dr. Gunst focuses her research on smooth muscle mechanisms in the airway, and her work has received NIH funding continuously since 1983. She is currently the principal investigator (PI) on two NIH R0-1 grants totaling nearly $3.5 million and is co-PI on another for $1.85 million. One of these grants is in its 23rd year of funding. Another renewal was accepted in 2008 on first submission, testimony to the quality of her work and the thoroughness with which she approaches grant writing. Her publication record is impressive, and she herself is an associate editor of the *Journal of Applied Physiology* and an editorial board member of three other esteemed national journals.

As a teacher, Dr. Gunst has distinguished herself in course development, having designed and directed two graduate courses: Integrative Physiology: Cells to systems; and Physiology of Smooth Muscle. She is also an excellent classroom teacher, making herself available to lecture medical students, allied health students, dental students, and other graduate students despite her heavy time commitment to her research. Her

Fairbanks Hall, Suite 6200 340 West Tenth Street Indianapolis, IN 46202-3082 (317) 278-3048 medicine.iu.edu

reputation as a strong mentor is clear in the number of students who ask her to serve on their thesis committees, by the successes of her postdoctoral fellows, and by the steady stream of post-docs, graduate students, and interns who pass through her laboratory.

In service to IUPUI, Dr. Gunst was elected to two different terms on the IUPUI Faculty Council and served on the IU/Purdue Collaborative Biomedical Grant Review Committee. Most recently, she helped with efforts to recruit a new dean to the School of Dentistry by serving on the search and screen committee, and is currently on the IUPUI Sabbatical Leaves Committee.

Her service to IUSM has been extensive, including chairing a search committee for the associate dean of graduate studies, as well as serving on the search committee for the department's chair. Presently, Dr. Gunst is a member of the IUSM Faculty Promotion and Tenure Committee and the IUSM Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees, the latter extremely important for our research programs. She was an involved participant in the INGEN Core Oversight Committee. At the department level, Dr. Gunst has served as coordinator for the departmental seminar series, on its Tenure and Promotion Committee, and presently chairs the Physiology Department Steering Committee.

There is ample evidence of Dr. Gunst's international reputation. She has been invited to speak at such premier universities as Mayo Medical School, Johns Hopkins, and Duke, and at professional societies and discipline meetings all over the United States, as well as in Canada, England, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and Scotland. Since 1991, she has been named the symposium chair or primary organizer for 19 national and international meetings.

For all of these reasons and many more, I believe Susan J. Gunst, Ph.D., embodies all the qualities of a Chancellor's Professor. She is a shining star among researchers and a tremendous asset to our school and university. It is my great pleasure to recommend her.

Sincerely,

David S. Wilkes, MD
Executive Associate Dean for Research Affairs
August M. Watanabe Professor of Medical Research
Professor of Medicine, Microbiology and Immunology