INDIANA UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS
School of Medicine

January 11, 2010

Faculty Appointments and Advancement
Academic Affairs / Dean of Faculties
Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis
Administration Building, Suite 126
355 North Lansing Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2896

RE: Nomination of Dr. Susan J. Gunst for Chancellor's Professorship

Dear Chancellor's Professor Selection Committee:

It is a great pleasure to write in support of Dr. Susan Gunst's nomination for the Chancellor's Professorship; she is an outstanding candidate for this reward. I have known Susan since 1989, when she moved to Indianapolis and became a member of the Department of Physiology in IU School of Medicine. Dr Gunst and I have a common interest in airway physiology and I have known her as a research collaborator, a scientist with great dedication to the research community, and a faculty member devoted to our university's academic mission.

During her career, Dr. Gunst's research has remained extremely focused with exceptional depth and productivity. Her first research publication on airway smooth muscle contractility appeared in the prestigious Journal of Applied Physiology in 1981. Since that initial publication, Dr. Gunst has more than 80 peer reviewed research publications related to airway smooth muscle in very high quality journals. She was an associate editor for the Journal of Applied Physiology for 9 years; she is currently an associate editor for American Journal of Physiology: Lung, Cell and Molecular Physiology, and she has been on the editorial board of multiple journals. Susan has maintained 26 years of continuous NIH RO1 funding in this area of research, often with multiple simultaneous RO1 grants; this is truly an outstanding research achievement. Dr. Gunst also has an outstanding reputation as a leader in airway physiology, as evidenced by her participation as an invited speaker at numerous national and international symposia, as well as a chairperson of numerous professional committees.

During her post-doctoral training at the Mayo Clinic, Susan initiated a series of studies that identified an important physiologic phenomenon of airway smooth muscle; cyclical stretching resulted in less force generation when the muscle was stimulated. During the next 20 years, Susan has remained focused in addressing the mechanisms for this physiologic phenomenon, which has since become recognized as an important phenotypic characteristic that distinguishes patients with asthma from non-asthmatic subjects. Susan has remained extremely successful as a researcher because of her

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intelligence, devotion to details, excellent inter-personal skills, and her ability to integrate state-of-the-art cellular and molecular techniques with classical physiology.

Susan is also an exemplary citizen of our University community, as evidenced by her strong commitment to teaching and service, in addition to her excellence in research. She has been an exceptional mentor to many graduate students and post-doctoral fellows, as well as an excellent teacher in multiple undergraduate and graduate courses. Her enthusiasm and encouragement to others has been greatly appreciated by all those that have had the opportunity to interact with her. Susan has also served on many important University committees, including Promotion and Tenure, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, and search committees for Departmental Chairs.

In summary, it is with great pleasure that I support Susan's nomination for the Chancellor's Professorship; an award that she truly deserves, as she exemplifies the achievement of our academic mission.

Sincerely,

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