SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Office of the Dean

January 5, 2010

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

Dear Colleagues:

With pleasure and enthusiasm I am writing to endorse Professor Susan J. Gunst for advancement to the rank of Chancellor's Professor. I fully support Dr. Michael Sturek, chair of the Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology at the Indiana University School of Medicine (IUSM), in his nomination of Dr. Gunst, a stellar faculty colleague.

Dr. Gunst began her faculty career at Mayo Medical School, joined the IU School of Medicine faculty in 1989 as associate professor of physiology and biophysics and in 1996 achieved full professorship in the Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology. Since arriving here, she has forged relationships with basic scientists and clinicians alike on both sides of Michigan Street.

As you know, Chancellor's Professorships are given only to IUPUI faculty who demonstrate consistent long-term excellence in all three areas of faculty work, and this has certainly been the case for Dr. Gunst:

Her research focuses on smooth muscle mechanisms in the airway, and her work has received NIH funding continuously since 1982. 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, a testament 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 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 reputation as a mentor is clearly evident 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.

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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. Her service to IUSM has been extensive, including chairing a 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 being 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 she presently chairs the Physiology Department Steering Committee.

Dr. Gunst's extraordinary international reputation is clearly apparent in that she is a sought-after speaker among premier universities (Mayo Medical School, Johns Hopkins, and Duke, for example) and at professional societies and discipline meetings all over the United States, as well as in Canada, England, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and Scotland. It is particularly noteworthy that since 1991 Dr. Gunst has been named the symposium chair or primary organizer for 19 national and international meetings.

Personally, Dr. Gunst is enthusiastic about her work and transmits that enthusiasm along to her trainees and to her colleagues. She is a valued member of the IUSM faculty, a role model and inspiration, and has consistently contributed at the highest level of excellence in every area of the academic mission and across disciplines and campuses. Therefore, I believe that Susan J. Gunst, Ph.D. is worthy of appointment as a Chancellor's Professor.

Sincerely,

D. Craig Brater, M.D.
Vice President, Indiana University
Dean and Walter J. Daly Professor,
Indiana University School of Medicine