MEMORANDUM

March 17, 2020

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Kristina M. Johnson, Chancellor

SUBJECT: Appointment of Distinguished Professors

Action Requested

The proposed resolution appoints the faculty members listed below to the rank of Distinguished Professor at the State University of New York campus indicated.

Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Whereas the Board of Trustees has proudly established a historic tradition of acknowledging and honoring extraordinary faculty achievement through appointment to the Distinguished Faculty Rank; and

Whereas the appointment to Distinguished Faculty Rank at the State-operated campuses is both a system-wide distinction and a promotion in rank; and

Whereas the SUNY Board of Trustees has the authority to bestow system-wide distinctions; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that each faculty member listed below be, and hereby is, appointed to the rank of Distinguished Professor at the State-operated campus indicated, effective March 17, 2020:

Professor Maria Laura Feltri, State University of New York at Buffalo;

Professor Jo L. Freudenheim, State University of New York at Buffalo;

Professor Amit Goyal, State University of New York at Buffalo;
Professor Elad I. Levy, State University of New York at Buffalo;

Professor Stephen T. Tiffany, State University of New York at Buffalo;

Professor Zhang Jie, State University College at Buffalo;

Professor Joseph Scheer, New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University;

Professor Xian-Cheng Jiang, State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University;

Professor Sheryl S. Smith, State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University;

Professor Karin E. Limburg, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry;

Professor Joel H. Saltz, State University of New York at Stony Brook; and

Professor Alexander B. Zamolodchikov, State University of New York at Stony Brook.

**Background**

Appointment to the rank of Distinguished Professor recognizes and honors faculty who have achieved national and/or international prominence and a distinguished reputation within their chosen field. This distinction is attained through extraordinary contributions to, and impact on, the candidate’s field of study, often evidenced by significant research and/or creative activity. Moreover, the candidate should be a role model for students and other faculty and their work must be of such character that it has the potential to elevate the standards of scholarship or creative activity of colleagues both within and beyond their academic fields. Their work must be of such quality that students and scholars on other State University of New York campuses would wish to benefit from lectures and seminars, or other appropriate presentations the faculty members might provide. Further, to be eligible for nomination, a faculty member must have attained and held the rank of full professor for five years, and must have at least one year of full-time service at the nominating institution.

These individuals have contributed meaningfully and consistently in several notable areas, including extensive and superior service to the profession; leadership and ongoing participation on influential disciplinary committees; membership on prestigious editorial boards; service as reviewer or consultant on regulatory, advisory, and award-making bodies; and status as an invited
presenter at conferences and symposia. The candidates are also often considered outstanding teachers, setting the highest academic standards for their students.

Brief summaries of the accomplishments of each candidate are provided below:

**Professor Maria Laura Feltri** – Dr. Feltri, Professor of Biochemistry in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University at Buffalo and Acting Director of the Hunter James Kelly Research Institute, is an internationally renowned expert and pioneer in the field of myelin biology. Author of more than 100 articles, Dr. Feltri has made seminal contributions to our understanding of how specific signaling pathways and growth factors regulate brain development and function, particularly in demyelinating diseases including multiple sclerosis, Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, and Krabbe disease. She researches Schwann cells and the process of myelination and remyelination that modulates neuro-inflammatory repair after traumatic injury or disease. She developed the first mutagenesis tool for studying Schwann cell development and regeneration, and she was the first to employ a transgenic animal model which allows researchers to study Schwann cell biology during development, in hereditary neuropathies, after injury, in regeneration and in disease. Her fundamental research significantly contributes to the development of novel therapies for many neurological disorders. A member of the international Peripheral Nerve Society and a member of its advisory board from 2009-2013, Dr. Feltri was awarded the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities in 2019.

**Professor Jo L. Freudenheim** – Dr. Freudenheim, Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health in the School of Public Health and Health Professions at the University at Buffalo, is an internationally renowned expert in nutritional cancer epidemiology. Dr. Freudenheim has conducted groundbreaking research on the factors that influence risk for breast cancer, including the role of diet, alcohol, and the physical environment. Author of more than 270 articles, she examines carcinogenesis from the molecular level to the individual and population levels. Her findings have helped shape the field of chronic disease epidemiology. Dr. Freudenheim’s research has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Army since 1991, and by the National Cancer Institute for the past 15 years. She is an elected member of the American Epidemiology Society, whose membership is limited to the top 200 epidemiologic investigators worldwide, and she is a fellow of the American College of Epidemiology. In 2005, she received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Research and Scholarship,
and in 2008 she was named the School of Public Health and Health Professions’ Outstanding Researcher.

**Professor Amit Goyal** – Dr. Goyal is a SUNY Empire Innovation Professor and founding director of the University at Buffalo’s RENEW Institute that harnesses the expertise of more than 100 faculty in seven of the University’s schools and colleges to explore solutions to globally pressing energy and environmental problems, as well as to the social and economic issues connecting them. His leadership has placed the University at Buffalo at the forefront of efforts to reduce water and air pollution and to find innovative, clean ways to produce, transmit, and store energy. Before joining the University at Buffalo faculty, Dr. Goyal was a distinguished scientist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. An internationally recognized materials scientist, Dr. Goyal was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2018 for groundbreaking scientific advances and technological innovations enabling the worldwide commercialization of high-temperature superconductors. A fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, Dr. Goyal holds 87 patents, with additional patents pending. He has authored more than 315 peer-reviewed publications and co-edited six books, garnering more than 18,400 citations. Thompson-Reuters’ Essential Science Indicators ranked Dr. Goyal as the most-cited author worldwide in the field of high-temperature superconductivity from 1999-2009.

**Professor Elad I. Levy** – Dr. Levy, Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University at Buffalo, is an international expert in neurosurgical interventions in cerebrovascular disease, especially the treatment of stroke, intracranial arterial stenosis, and aneurysms. Widely regarded as a pioneer in the field, Dr. Levy has published four books and 573 articles and developed new technology and approaches that have been helpful in treating people around the world with previously incurable cerebrovascular disorders. A member and fellow of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, the American College of Surgeons, and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, Dr. Levy is one of 100 members of the American Academy of Neurosurgery and one of 12 members of the American Board of Neurosurgery. As principal investigator or co-PI, Dr. Levy has garnered more than 40 grants totaling nearly $10 million. In 2014 he earned the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities; in 2016 he received the L. Nelson Hopkins, MD Professor and Endowed Chair of Neurosurgery Award, and in 2018 he was recognized as “Teacher of the Year” by the residents and fellows at UB Neurosurgery for his dedication to teaching and mentoring. His many awards include the Hero of the Heart Award from the American Heart Association.
Professor Stephen T. Tiffany – Dr. Tiffany, Empire Innovation Professor in the University at Buffalo’s Department of Psychology, is a globally renowned expert on the study of addictions. He has developed a cognitive model of craving—now referred to as the “Tiffany model”—that has shaped the way experts in the field conceptualize the relationship between craving and addictive behavior, particularly in relation to nicotine and tobacco. As a direct result of Dr. Tiffany’s research, the phenomenon of drug craving has been added as a diagnostic criterion in the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, the resource used to categorize mental disorders in legal, educational, and medical records. Dr. Tiffany demonstrates a breadth of expertise ranging from use of basic animal models to clinical interventions. With more than $12 million in grants, including seven highly competitive R01 grants from the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Tiffany has published more than 120 peer-reviewed articles and an edited book collection. His cognitive model of craving has been cited more than 2,000 times, and his top five articles cited more than 600 times each. Dr. Tiffany was elected as a fellow of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco in 2018.

Professor Zhang Jie – Dr. Zhang, Professor of Sociology at Buffalo State College, is a world-renowned scholar on social psychiatry and suicidology. His field work in rural China with specific attention to rural communities, gender differences, and mental health concerns helped identify the unique risk factors of suicide. Featured in Science in 2012, his Strain Theory of Suicide and measurement scales provided a new perspective to understand and intervene in suicidal behaviors. His Reference Theory, a social psychological theory to account for disputes and an approach to resolution, crossed disciplines to draw from a complex array of other constructs (e.g., depression, hopelessness, mental illness) and their measures from the field of psychiatry. Founding director of Buffalo State’s Center for China Studies, Dr. Zhang has authored six books and more than 200 refereed articles and book chapters. Zhang was awarded the Louis I. Dublin Award for Distinguished Contribution in the Area of Suicidology from the American Association of Suicidology. He has been awarded the Buffalo State President’s Teaching Award and the Chancellor’s Excellence Award in both Faculty Service and Scholarship and Creative Activities.

Professor Joseph Scheer – Mr. Scheer, Professor of Print Media in the Department of Expanded Media at the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, is a Fulbright Scholar and Co-Director/Founder of the Institute for Electronic Arts at the School of Art and Design. He currently serves as Vice President of the International Academic Printmaking Alliance based in Beijing China. Over the past 35 years, he has held more than 120
exhibitions in prestigious national and international venues, and his works are in more than 200 public and private collections worldwide. He is the leading American exponent in the development of digitally derived applications for a fine-art printmaking context. His current works, which span print media, video, and web-based projects, use technology to re-examine nature through interpretive collecting and visual recording. An invited visiting artist lecturer over 70 times in locations worldwide, including Europe, China, Australia, and New Zealand, Scheer has two books, numerous catalogs, and his work has been featured hundreds of times in various publications, including *National Geographic*, the *New York Times*, *ArtNews*, *ArtForum*, *Science*, *Nature*, *Forbes*, *American Photo*, *DERSPIEGEL*, and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Interviews and discussions of his work have appeared on ABC News, BBC News, and Bravo TV. Among his many awards are the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities.

**Professor Xian-Cheng Jiang** – Dr. Jiang, Professor in the Department of Cell Biology at SUNY Downstate, is a leader in the field of lipid biology, specifically the role of lipoproteins and phospholipids in the membranes of cells, and how this biology influences the development of cardiovascular disease. His work has revolutionized our understanding of the complex and intricate regulatory pathways of phospholipid metabolism, and has had a profound impact on our understanding of heart and vascular disease. Continuously funded as a Principal Investigator by the National Institutes of Health, American Heart Association and Veterans Affairs over the last two decades, he has published more than 170 peer-reviewed papers in journals such as *Nature Medicine*, the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, *Gastroenterology*, *Hepatology*, *Science Translational Medicine*, *Circulation Research*, *Circulation*, and many others. He has received numerous honors, including the SUNY Downstate Medical Center President Research Award (2002); the SUNY Promising Inventor Awards (2003 and 2005); the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities (2010); the SUNY Downstate Medical Center Excellence in Education Award (2015), and the Alfred Stracher Faculty Recognition Award (2018).

**Professor Sheryl S. Smith** – Dr. Smith, Professor of Physiology and Pharmacology at SUNY Downstate, is an internationally prominent researcher in the field of Neuroscience. Dr. Smith identified a novel sub-type of GABA\(_{\alpha}\) receptor, \(\alpha_4\beta_5\), which emerges in the brain at puberty and after hormonal fluctuations in a rodent model of premenstrual syndrome, generating inhibition but also anxiety in response to a stress steroid. This inhibitory receptor reduces learning ability and can limit seizure activity but
its effect on brain circuits, triggering “synaptic pruning”, is a necessary process to ensure optimal learning in adulthood. Dr. Smith’s research, continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health, sheds light on the mechanisms underlying diverse outcomes seen during human adolescence. Abnormal pruning and expression of the α4βδ GABA_α receptors are tied to a variety of disorders triggered by the onset of puberty, including anxiety, premenstrual syndromes and other mood disorders, remission of childhood epilepsy and certain diseases of the brain such as schizophrenia and autism. She edited *Neurosteroid Effects in the Central Nervous System: The role of the GABA_α receptor* and has published 149 peer-reviewed articles. Dr. Smith, widely recognized as an accomplished researcher and an exemplary teacher, has rendered outstanding service to Downstate, Brooklyn, and the nation and beyond.

**Professor Karin E. Limburg** – Dr. Limburg, Professor in the Department of Environmental and Forest Biology at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF), is an international expert in fisheries science and environmental economics. With over 40 years of academic service, Dr. Limburg is known especially for her work on otolithology and now hypoxia in the world’s oceans. She has performed research on the ancient fish of the Amazon, commercial cod stocks in the Baltic Sea, endangered species in the Grand Canyon, and the American Shad in the Hudson River. She is internationally known for her research in North America and in the Baltic Sea. Author of 115 peer-reviewed journal publications, she leads SUNY ESF with nearly 2,500 scholarly citations a year over the past five years. Her article “The Value of the World’s Ecosystem Services and Natural Capital” published in *Nature* has alone been cited more than 20,000 times and is credited with making ecological economics (the integration of ecosystem modeling and economics together with social/institutional assessments) the mainstream approach. She has been the principal investigator for close to 50 grants worth millions of dollars. Dr. Limburg was instrumental in founding the U.S. Society of Ecological Economics, serving as its president and board member and as founding co-editor of its journal, *Ecological Economics Reviews*. A Fulbright scholar, Dr. Limburg was recognized with SUNY ESF’s Exemplary Researcher Award in 2010, and the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities in 2018.

**Professor Joel H. Saltz** – Dr. Saltz, the Cherith Professor and Founding Chair of the Department of Biomedical Informatics at Stony Brook University, has performed groundbreaking work in bringing concepts from computer science and digital processing to clinical pathology, leading to significant improvements in diagnosis and patient outcomes. His innovative studies on whole slide
imaging led to improved analysis of previously challenging cases of neuroblastoma and lymphoma, and in 2017 he received Food and Drug Administration clearance to use whole slide imaging for primary pathology diagnosis. He has developed pioneering artificial intelligence/deep learning methods to create highly detailed maps of tumors and tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs), and to reliably segment and classify cell nuclei. He used deep learning algorithms to identify the precise location and spatial arrangement of TILs and then showed that patterns relating to the spatial arrangement of TILs was strongly prognostic of cancer outcome in a pan-cancer manner. His work has been instrumental in shaping the growing field of bioinformatics, and he is credited with coining the term pathomics (from pathology and informatics), creating a field that did not exist before him. Author of more than 191 journals publications, Dr. Saltz is a Fellow of the American College of Pathologists and the American College of Medical Informatics.

**Professor Alexander B. Zamolodchikov** – Dr. Zamolodchikov, Professor in the Institute for Theoretical Physics, joined Stony Brook University as the first C.N. Yang – Wei Deng Professor of Theoretical Physics. His contributions to quantum field theory, statistical physics, and string theory have been at the forefront of world theoretical physics for more than 40 years. Dr. Zamolodchikov’s research is in the field of theoretical physics with specific contributions to conformal invariance, which has implications for the physics of solids and liquids. His landmark co-authored paper “Infinite Conformal Symmetry in Two-Dimensional Quantum Field Theory” had widespread impact on a broad set of problems, ranging from the behavior of two-dimensional materials such as nanosheets of graphene to superstrings in space-time: it is credited with giving birth to the new discipline of conformal models. With a collaborator, he produced differential equations for the correlation functions of 2D conformal field theories, universally known as the “Knizhnik-Zamolodchikov equations.” His work has contributed to our understanding of critical phenomena and phase transitions and has had applications to quantum entanglement and quantum computation. With ~80 publications and ~20,000 citations, Dr. Zamolodchikov was named an American Physical Society Fellow in 2000; a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2012, and inducted into the National Academy of Sciences in 2016.

A copy of the nominating letter from each candidate’s respective campus president is attached. Complete dossiers are available in the Office of the Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor.

Attachments
January 10, 2019

Dr. Tod A. Laursen  
Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor  
State University Plaza  
353 Broadway  
Room S525  
Albany, NY 12246-2915

Dear Provost Laursen:

It is my pleasure to endorse and forward the dossier of Maria Laura Feltri, MD, University at Buffalo Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Adjunct Professor of Neurology in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, for appointment to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Professor. Dr. Feltri is a world-renowned expert in myelination and Schwann cell biology who has contributed to a series of discoveries related to demyelinating diseases, including Multiple Sclerosis, Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease and Krabbe disease. Held in the highest regard by her global peers, she is lauded as “an undisputed world leader in the field of myelin biology” for her “outstanding scientific achievements that have attained her worldwide recognition and respect.”

Dr. Feltri completed her clinical training at the University of Milan in 1988 and her postdoctoral training in neurology at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia in 1992. That same year, she returned to Milan’s San Raffaele Scientific Institute (SRSI), rising through the ranks to serve as the head of its NeuroGlia Unit in 2006. In 2011, she joined UB’s faculty as professor of biochemistry and neurology and as a researcher with the Hunter James Kelly Research Institute—an organization dedicated to understanding neurodegenerative diseases. Devoting her career to discovering the cellular, biochemical and molecular basis for these diseases, Dr. Feltri has emerged as an academic and administrative leader in her field. Currently, she is the acting director of the Hunter James Kelly Research Institute; she still holds a co-appointment in the SRSI unit dedicated to the biology of myelin.

Revered by her peers for making “seminal contributions” to peripheral and central nervous system myelination, myelin-related diseases and myelin repair, Dr. Feltri is a highly productive scholar who has co-authored seven book chapters, written 11 invited reviews and published nearly 100 peer-reviewed articles—including 39 since joining UB. Her work has an h-index of 39, with more than 4,400 citations, according to Google Scholar. A generous mentor, Dr. Feltri often lists her postdoctoral and graduate trainees as first authors on their collaborative work. Her findings have appeared in such prestigious journals as Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Nature Neuroscience, Nature Communications, Journal of Neuroscience, Journal of Cell Biology, Development and Neuron.

Dr. Feltri’s research has been funded for more than two decades. Currently, she is the principal investigator or co-PI on three National Institutes of Health (NIH) R01 grants totaling more than $3.8 million, and a co-investigator on two additional grants. Since arriving at UB, Dr. Feltri has also received funding from such sources as the Department of Defense, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association and SUNY REACH. Over the course of her highly productive research career in Europe and the U.S., Dr.
Feltri has garnered two dozen grants totaling more than $9 million. In addition, Dr. Feltri’s current MD-PhD graduate student successfully competed for an NIH F30 fellowship (2017-21) for his thesis work on Krabbe Disease. Vittorio Gallo, PhD, Chief Research Officer at the Children’s National Medical Center and the Wolf-Pack Chair in Neuroscience and Associate Dean for Child Health Research at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, praises Dr. Feltri as “an absolutely outstanding investigator, and a star in glial biology and developmental/translational neuroscience at large.” Gallo adds that Dr. Feltri “has made significant and remarkable contributions to her field of research and to our understanding of how specific signaling pathways and growth factors regulate brain development and function,” and that she is considered “one of the top and most prominent investigators in the field of glial and myelin biology.”

Among her many seminal findings, Dr. Feltri pioneered a technique for examining intercellular communication by observing molecules from one cell type pass across an artificial membrane to send a signal to another cell type on the other side. This has dramatically simplified the study of complex interactions by focusing on the interface between cells, thus making it possible to tease apart the individual molecular events of each cell. Thanks to this breakthrough, one can now study signaling events that lead to myelin defects and axonal degeneration. It also led Dr. Feltri to discover the role of prohibitins in cellular communication, which in turn produced a new area of exploration for which she receives external funding.

In the early 1990s, Dr. Feltri began studying Schwann cells. The glia of the peripheral nervous system, these cells are important for the conduction of nerve impulses along axons, nerve development and regeneration, physical support, extracellular matrix production and modulation of neuromuscular synaptic activity. Dr. Feltri was one of the pioneers for the use of stable transfection of cells to express specific genes, and she began transplanting genetically labeled Schwann cells into the sciatic nerve of rats. In her early studies, she employed the latest molecular methods to define the genes expressed in Schwann cells and the peripheral nerve during development and regeneration.

Q. Richard Lu, PhD, the Beatrice C. Lampkin endowed chair in cancer epigenetics and professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati, praises Dr. Feltri for her path-breaking innovations in this area. “Dr. Feltri is a pioneer to develop many unique genetic tools, including the first conditional mutagenesis tool for studying the mechanisms underlying Schwann cell development and regeneration,” he writes. “She has generated the first ‘Cre’ mouse specific for Schwann cells, which allows many investigators, including our laboratory, to study Schwann cell biology during development, after injury, in regeneration and disease. With this unique transgenic tool, Dr. Feltri and her collaborators have defined the critical function of cell adhesion molecules/membrane receptors, including Notch and TACE (ADAM17) in Schwann cell differentiation, myelination and plasticity. This work has been a milestone in the field of Schwann cell biology and myelination.”

Dr. Feltri’s contributions have also been notable in the area of laminin receptor and integrin signaling in regulating processes of myelination. This has included studies in both the peripheral and central nervous systems that contributed to our understanding of hereditary neuropathies such as Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease. In collaboration with her colleagues, Dr. Feltri generated one of the first transgenic vectors for Schwann cells—a vital step in
understanding Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease. Her research group has generated a series of transgenic mouse lines to define the mechanisms of gain-of-function toxicity of MPZ mutation that cause Charcot-Marie-Tooth 1b (CMT1b) disease and has further identified ER stress as a therapeutic target for CMT1b disease. Most importantly, they have been translating this finding into promising drug candidates for clinical trials. If successful, this study will significantly impact treatment strategies for Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease and other peripheral neuropathies.

Dr. Feltri’s research group has also made a series of significant discoveries in the understanding of how cell-to-cell communications contribute to myelinating cell functions in the peripheral nerves. She has identified and characterized integrins in normal nerve development after injury and in disease, in the process discovering that a specific set of integrins regulate basal lamina signals to select axons to be myelinated, while another set of integrins protect the myelin sheath. This work has significantly advanced understanding of Schwann cell-axon interactions and how Schwann cells sense environmental growth signals to promote myelination in the peripheral nerve system.

Further, Dr. Feltri has pioneered the discovery of mechanisms of axonal radial sorting. Her laboratory has identified a critical role of laminin and its receptors and Rho-GTPases in the regulation of Schwann cell radial sorting and myelination, as well as the organization of the myelin internode and nodes of Ranvier. Her work has inspired and generated a whole new field of similar studies on this subject worldwide. Indeed, Dr. Feltri’s pioneering and creative research has not only benefited other researchers but has also strongly influenced the entire field of myelin biology and disease.

Globally renowned as a leader in her field, Dr. Feltri served as a member of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Study Section (2012-2017); currently, she is a member of the NIH Cellular and Molecular Biology of Glia Study Section (2015-21). She has also served on several NIH special review/emphasis panels. In addition, she is serving as chair of the NIH Cellular & Molecular Biology of Glia Study section and also serves on the Scientific Advisory Board of the Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association. Dr. Feltri has been a member of the Board of the Peripheral Nerve Society and currently serves on its Educational Committee. As well, she is a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

In high demand for her expertise, Dr. Feltri has given 40 invited lectures—including 21 international and 19 national and regional presentations—over the past decade. She is highly recognized and respected among leaders in her field. A highlight of her career occurred in October of 2019, when she was invited to speak at a Nobel Mini-Symposium held at Sweden’s Karolinska Institute. In 2015, Dr. Feltri was invited to present the plenary lecture at the international Peripheral Nerve Society Meeting; two years later, she presented the plenary lecture at the international Euroglia Meeting.

Dr. Feltri’s outstanding reputation in her field is further evidenced by editorial roles at top journals in her field, including editorial board member and associate editor for the Journal of Neuroscience and, currently, editor of GLIA and Experimental Neurology. She also served as a reviewer for journals such as Science, Cancer Cell, Journal of Cell Biology, Development and Human Molecular Genetics, among others. In addition, Dr. Feltri has served as a grant
reviewer for the Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and the NIH.

In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Dr. Feltri is a dedicated mentor who has supervised 12 PhD, MD or combined PhD-MD students, nine master’s students and 10 postdoctoral fellows during her academic career. She has served as a member of more than a dozen PhD thesis committees.

Honored for her research achievements and excellence as a teacher and mentor, Dr. Feltri has received notable distinctions for her scholarship, including the Young Investigator’s Colloquia Award at the International Society for Neurochemistry. Since joining UB, Dr. Feltri has received the Distinguished Postdoc Mentor Award from the Graduate School Office of Postdoctoral Scholars and the UB Exceptional Scholar - Sustained Achievement Award. In addition, last year she was honored with a SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities.

Perhaps best summarizing Dr. Feltri’s scholarly excellence and impact is Teresa L. Wood, PhD, the Rena Warshow Endowed Chair in Multiple Sclerosis and Professor in the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neuroscience at Rutgers University’s New Jersey Medical School. “Dr. Feltri has set an extremely high standard of achievement—including ground-breaking scientific contributions, continued high-level funding and service to the discipline—that makes her an outstanding example for other scientists within SUNY and, more broadly, across the discipline.”

Indeed, the broad scope of Dr. Feltri’s service and scholarly impact will be felt within the UB community, the academic community more broadly, and the healthcare field for many years to come. I enthusiastically support and recommend her nomination to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Professor.

Sincerely,

Satish K. Tripathi
President
January 10, 2020

Dr. Tod A. Laursen
Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor
State University Plaza
353 Broadway
Room S525
Albany, NY 12246-2915

Dear Provost Laursen:

It is my pleasure to endorse and forward the dossier of Jo L. Freudenheim, PhD, Professor and Chair of the University at Buffalo’s Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health (EEH) in the School of Public Health and Health Professions, for appointment to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Professor. An internationally renowned expert in nutritional epidemiology, molecular epidemiology and cancer, Dr. Freudenheim has focused her research on breast cancer epidemiology and the use of novel epidemiologic tools to understand carcinogenesis at the population, individual, tissue and molecular levels. As a result, she is improving our understanding of diet and dietary patterns in relation to disease risk and prognosis. Praised by her peers as a “giant” in her field, Dr. Freudenheim is revered as an “authority in nutrition oncology epidemiology” whose “groundbreaking and rigorous... studies are used in many classrooms as hallmark studies to help teach graduate students in cancer epidemiology.”

Earning her PhD in nutritional science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1986, Dr. Freudenheim came to the University at Buffalo in 1987 as a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine (now known as the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health). She was appointed to a tenure-track assistant professor position in 1988 and promoted to associate professor with tenure in 1993, full professor in 1998 and University at Buffalo Distinguished Professor in 2004. In addition to her academic appointment, Dr. Freudenheim holds several other positions at university-affiliated departments and units including: Affiliated Research Scientist at UB’s Clinical and Research Institute on Addictions, Adjunct Professor in the University at Albany’s Department of Epidemiology, Research Scientist at the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (NCGIA) at UB, and member and professor at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center’s Cancer Prevention Program.

A prolific scholar, Dr. Freudenheim has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Army for breast cancer epidemiology research since 1991. She has served as a Principal Investigator, co-PI or co-investigator for 36 research grants from prestigious sources including: the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Breast Cancer Research Program, the NIH and National Cancer Institute. What’s more, she has served as a PI or co-PI for more than a dozen grants in excess of $10 million. Dr. Freudenheim has published more than 270 articles in some of the highest-impact peer journals in medicine, cancer, nutrition and epidemiology. These include the Annals of Oncology, Journal of Clinical Oncology, British Journal of Cancer, JAMA, JAMA Oncology, Lancet JNCI, International Journal of Cancer, Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers and Prevention and American Journal of Epidemiology.
Dr. Freudenheim has conducted numerous studies concerning diet and alcohol intake and the risk of breast cancer as well as its environmental influences. Kathy J. Helzlsouer, MD, Associate Director of the National Cancer Institute's Epidemiology and Genomics Research Program, and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Epidemiology at John Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health, lauds the global impact of this research.

“Dr. Freudenheim’s seminal work on alcohol and health effects has been cited in the evaluation of alcohol and cancer conducted by the International Agency on Cancer Research (IARC),” Helzlsouer writes, noting that the IARC monographs influence clinical and public health guidelines. “The many international guidelines and recommendations on alcohol intake and disease risk are based on evidence from studies conducted by Dr. Freudenheim as well as others who contributed to the base of knowledge,” she adds. “Dr. Freudenheim’s work was among the earliest to examine the association between alcohol and cancer.” Additionally, Freudenheim is a long-term collaborator on a study of women in Puerto Rico that seeks to understand the underlying reasons for increased incidences of breast cancer over time. Specifically, Dr. Freudenheim’s exploration of dietary factors has provided new insights into breast cancer due to the examination of populations with greater variation in dietary intake.

Having a longstanding interest in life-course epidemiology, Dr. Freudenheim has been examining the role of early-life exposures on adult chronic disease risk, including cancer. With collaborators at The Ohio State University, she has been conducting research on molecular indicators that are potentially prognostic in human tissues, including healthy breast tissue collected from reduction mammoplasties. Dr. Freudenheim’s research on the epigenetics of breast cancer is innovative for its integration of cutting-edge assessments of methylation profiles with tumors obtained from population studies, and the relationship to exposures such as air pollution. This work provides a unique evaluation of the mechanisms of breast carcinogenesis and the potential role of risk factors in altering epigenetic patterning. Mary Beth Terry, PhD, Professor of Epidemiology at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health, is effusive in her praise of the profound impact Dr. Freudenheim’s scholarship has had on her field.

“Simply put, she is one of only a handful of cancer epidemiologists in the world that I consider a giant in our field.” Dr. Terry writes. “Dr. Freudenheim’s scholarship in the field of nutritional epidemiology, life-course methods and molecular epidemiology has influenced a generation of epidemiologists.” She was also one of the first molecular epidemiologists training a whole generation of researchers to robustly test hypotheses about nutritional, environmental and other lifestyle exposures through examining their impact based on biomarkers that can be measured in the blood or tissue.”

In 2018, Dr. Freudenheim received a new grant from New York State to study the microbial composition of breast cancer tissue to better understand the role of the microbiome in the etiology of cancer. The influence of exposures on the microbiome holds promise to reveal new pathways to understanding cancer and ultimately developing approaches for prevention. In addition, she has launched studies of the effects of electronic cigarettes on the lungs. Given recent reports of lung disease and deaths among e-cigarette users, this is timely and critical research, indeed.
In high demand around the world for her expertise, Dr. Freudenheim has been invited to present her work in more than 40 academic settings throughout the United States and internationally including Italy, Malaysia, China, Canada, and Greece. As well, she served on a working group for the International Agency for Research on Cancer, in Lyon, France. David C. Christiani, MD, the Elkan Blout Professor of Environmental Genetics and Director of the Environmental and Occupational Medicine and Epidemiology Program at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, confirms that Dr. Freudenheim’s is well deserving of high praise. “She is a distinguished epidemiologist who has an established national and international reputation for original scientific contributions and for outstanding conduct of epidemiologic research,” he writes. “She has performed groundbreaking work on the causes of breast cancer, considering dietary, metabolic, environmental, hormonal and genetic factors.”

Dedicated to her field and profession, Dr. Freudenheim has served in national leadership capacities, including as a reviewer of the Intramural program for the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics at the National Cancer Institute; member of the site visit team for the intramural review of the Laboratory of Cancer Prevention; and intramural reviewer of several NCI branches and divisions. Her selection as a member of the NCI/NIH Board of Scientific Counselors—Clinical Science and Epidemiology is considered a particularly high honor to which only the most respected cancer scientists are elected. Dr. Freudenheim has also served the NIH as a study section reviewer for many years, including serving as a permanent member of EDC-2 from 1997-2002. Impressively, she was selected as chair of the NIH Cancer Epidemiology Study Section from 2004-2006. In addition to her contributions to the NIH and NCI, she has served as a scientific reviewer for many of the leading funding agencies in cancer research, including Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, and the American Cancer Society.

Dr. Freudenheim also serves on the editorial boards of many of the most impactful journals in the field of epidemiology, including editorial board member of Cancer Causes and Control (1999-present); Senior Editor of Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention (2011-present)—one of the top journals of her field—and editorial board member of Current Epidemiology Reports (2017-present). She also serves as a reviewer for a large number of peer-reviewed journals, including Cancer Research, JAMA and JNCI. From 2010 to 2017, she served on the Steering Committee of the Molecular Epidemiology Working Group of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), including chairing the working group from 2015-2016. Over the years, she has also had leadership roles at the American Institute on Nutrition, the American Society for Nutritional Sciences, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, and the International Association for Cancer Research (IARC).

Dr. Freudenheim has been dedicated to serving her university as well, serving on numerous committees for departmental and school faculty searches, and leadership positions for the university. These includes searches for the Vice President for Health Sciences/Dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Dean of the School of Dental Medicine, Dean of the School of Public Health and Health Professions, and Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies. She also has served on the Provost’s Scientific Advisory Board; the Clinical and Translational Science Career Development, Education and Training Committee; the Clinical and Translational Science Award Core Curriculum Committee; the CTSA KL2 Steering Committee; and the President’s Review Board on Appointments, Promotions and Tenure. In addition, she has served as either the chair or interim chair of the Department of
Epidemiology and Environmental Health since 2003. In this role, she has recruited and closely mentored many young faculty members who have gone on to productive careers of their own. Under her leadership, the department has thrived and is recognized as one of the most scientifically productive and respected in the country.

A devoted teacher and mentor to her students, Dr. Freudenheim has taught numerous courses in the epidemiology program. Over her more-than 30 years of teaching at UB, she has mentored dozens of students who have gone on to be leaders in the field of cancer epidemiology. She has maintained an NCI-funded PhD training grant in cancer epidemiology for the past 15 years, ensuring the department can attract and support the best trainees in the discipline, and she has mentored more than 25 master’s students, 28 doctoral students (15 as primary mentor) and 10 postdoctoral fellows.

Recognized nationally and internationally for her excellence as a scholar and teacher, Dr. Freudenheim has received numerous honors and accolades. She is an elected member of the American Epidemiology Society, a society limited to the top 200 epidemiologic investigators from North America and the world. Elected membership to this society is among the highest recognitions in the field of epidemiology. She is also a fellow of the American College of Epidemiology. In 2017, one of her research papers was named the “Best of CEBP” (for Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention), a distinguished honor awarded annually by the American Society of Preventive Oncology for the best manuscript in the field. She is also an elected member of the Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health Gamma Lambda Chapter. In 2005, she received the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Research and Scholarship.

An international leader in the field of cancer, nutritional and molecular epidemiology, Dr. Freudenheim has profoundly impacted her discipline throughout her career, continually forging new paths of thought and investigation. She not only has impacted the field with her personal achievements; she is a passionate teacher and mentor whose students have gone on to great success in the profession. Indeed, Dr. Freudenheim’s scholarship, service and mentorship will be felt within the UB community, the academic community more broadly, and her fields of study for many years to come. I enthusiastically support and recommend her nomination to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Professor.

Sincerely,

Satish K. Tripathi
President
January 10, 2020

Dr. Tod A. Laursen  
Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor  
State University Plaza  
353 Broadway  
Room S525  
Albany, NY 12246-2915

Dear Provost Laursen:

It is my pleasure to endorse and forward the dossier of Amit Goyal, PhD, SUNY Empire Innovation Professor in the University at Buffalo’s Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Professor. An elected member of the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Inventors, Dr. Goyal is an internationally recognized materials scientist who is lauded for his groundbreaking scientific advances and technological innovations. Dr. Goyal’s peers recognize his “numerous important contributions to both the fundamental and applied aspects of high-temperature superconducting materials research,” adding that his most influential work—"the growth of superconductor thin films by a variety of methods"—has made possible the large-scale commercialization of high-temperature superconductors.

Earning his doctoral degree in materials science and engineering from the University of Rochester in 1991, Dr. Goyal began his professional career at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in 1993 as a staff scientist, where he excelled as a highly productive researcher who made numerous seminal discoveries in materials science over the course of his distinguished career, and where he remains an Emeritus Corporate Fellow.

In 2015, Dr. Goyal joined the University at Buffalo as the aforementioned SUNY Empire Innovation Professor and founding director of RENEW, UB’s interdisciplinary research and education institute dedicated to solving globally pressing problems related to energy, the environment and water. RENEW has benefited greatly from having a researcher and scientific administrator of Dr. Goyal’s stature and experience at its helm. In overseeing RENEW, he is extending his scientific footprint far beyond his core research activities in applied superconductivity to broader issues of sustainability and the transition to a regenerative economy. In terms of research, RENEW has directly or indirectly helped develop and submit more than 150 external research grant proposals and has enabled the publication of more than 200 papers and over 200 presentations while garnering approximately $24 million in external funds. RENEW’s external engagement includes a sponsored $2 million project with the City of Buffalo, ongoing corporate interactions and collaborations with international universities.

A prolific and accomplished scientist, Dr. Goyal has made pioneering and sustained scholarly contributions including more than 315 peer-reviewed publications in prestigious journals such as Nature Magazine’s Scientific Reports, Science, Journal of Physics, Proceedings of Microscopy & Microanalysis, Nanotechnology, Journal of Applied Physics and the Journal of Materials Research, among others. His research has also resulted in 45 book chapters and publications; 88 patents, including 18 international patents; and 225 invited talks, including
more than 25 invited plenary or keynote presentations at national and international conferences. Incredibly, Dr. Goyal’s research has received more than 18,400 citations, with an h-index of 65 and i10-index of 336. Demonstrating his status as a globally renowned expert, an independent analysis of the field of high-temperature superconductors conducted by Thompson-Reuters’ Essential Science Indicators and ScienceWatch.com ranked Dr. Goyal as the most cited author worldwide in the field of high-temperature superconductivity from 1999-2009.

Perhaps even more impressive is Dr. Goyal’s research funding record. Since 1991, he has received more than 60 grants in excess of $42 million from sources such as the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), including prestigious Laboratory Directed Research & Development (LDRD) grants. Currently, he is the principal investigator or co-PI on $5.5 million in grants from the DOE, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the City of Buffalo and NY SUNY 2020 Expanded Investment and Performance funding.

Dr. Goyal’s research is characterized by his colleagues as “highly creative and innovative,” as it has “continually challenged the superconductivity field with new ideas and concepts.” Among Dr. Goyal’s seminal inventions is the rolling-assisted biaxially textured substrates (RABiTS) process for making large-area, flexible, near-single-crystal wires. The RABiTS process uses scalable thermomechanical routes to fabricate single-crystal-like wires upon which the epitaxial deposition of buffer and device layers is performed. Dr. Goyal has subsequently made numerous additional inventions that make the RABiTS approach truly practical for commercial scale-up. American Superconductor Corporation (AMSC)—the leading manufacturer of high-temperature superconducting wire worldwide—licensed the RABiTS technology, established a factory to manufacture it and has since made millions of wire based on Dr. Goyal’s technique.

Placing perspective on the profound impact of this innovation is Jagdish Narayan, PhD, a member of the National Academy of Engineering and National Academy of Inventors, and the John C.C. Fan Family Distinguished Chair in Material Science at North Carolina State University. “Dr. Goyal’s research over the last two and a half decades has been focused on addressing this [question], and his research and innovations have led to highly promising approaches to fabricate this wire to enable widespread commercialization worldwide,” Narayen writes. “His work [has] addressed key fundamental issues in applied superconductivity” and “has been transformative to the field.”

Another example of Dr. Goyal’s seminal influence is his innovation for flux pinning to make an existing technology—the Ion-Beam-Assisted-Deposition process—more scalable. This technology is now being used globally to fabricate the highest-performance, high-temperature superconducting wires enabled via self-assembly of nanostructures. By all indications, this technology will continue to lead to even further breakthroughs. Dr. Goyal’s colleagues and peers have praised the potential of his advances, including innovations to fabricate long-lengths of high-performance superconducting wires for large-scale applications, which range from electric-power applications—such as underground transmission cables, transformers, motors, generators and fault current limiter—medical applications—including NMR and MRI—energy generation—including off-shore wind generators—and high-field magnets for accelerators, high-energy physics and space applications. As a result of fabricating these high-
performance, high-temperature superconductor (HTS) wires it is now possible to realize nuclear fusion, as much higher fields can be generated to contain the plasma for fusion.

With funding from the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Dr. Goyal has been working, over the past two years on a collaborative project with AMSC to develop an advanced 2G HTS architecture and use low-energy irradiation to enhance flux pinning. Dr. Goyal's efforts are focused on detailed microstructural characterizations and the development of a fundamental understanding of the materials science and physics enabling enhanced flux pinning. This work has the potential to provide the next transformational advance in 2G HTS wire manufacturing and facilitate its adoption across numerous applications. Martin W. Rupich, PhD, Senior Technical Manager of Materials R&D at the American Superconductor Corporation, holds Dr. Goyal in the highest regard, describing him as "an outstanding scientist and educator who has achieved international prominence and a distinguished reputation in the field of high-temperature superconductivity research. His scientific innovations and knowledge have been essential to the development of the HTS wire technology, which is enabling a multitude of applications for the electric power industry, medicine, magnets, rotating machines and national security. Dr. Goyal's scientific innovations and contributions have had a profound effect on the development of the HTS technology and its commercialization. Every company, world-wide, involved in the commercialization of this new technology relies on some aspect of his work. His close collaborations with US industries have enabled the United States to achieve a leadership position in the HTS wire manufacturing and commercialization."

Dedicated to his profession, Dr. Goyal has served as chair of the ORNL Corporate Fellows Council and as president and CEO of several startup companies that he founded. Devoted to his field of study, Dr. Goyal has served as a journal reviewer for Nature Magazine’s Scientific Reports, Nature, Science, Advanced Functional Materials, Advanced Materials, Physica C, Journal of Materials Research, Applied Physics Letters, Physical Review B, Physical Review Letters, the Journal of Applied Physics, Applied Superconductivity, the Journal of Electrochemical Society, Materials Letters and the Journal of Metals, Minerals and Materials. He has also served as a reviewer for many DOE and DARPA proposals for small-business innovation research grants, as a member of review panels under the Ceramics Program for the National Science Foundation, and as a co-chair or co-organizer of more than 30 professional conferences and workshops.

Dedicated to guiding the next generation of scholars and scientists in his field of study, Dr. Goyal has served as a mentor to more than 20 postdoctoral fellows and scientific staff while working at ORNL and the University at Buffalo as well as mentoring high school students and lecturing at local high schools.

Recognized time and again for his scholarly excellence and groundbreaking achievements, Dr. Goyal has received numerous honors. In 2018, he was elected a member of the National Academy of Engineering and, in 2014, a member of the National Academy of Inventors. Additionally, Dr. Goyal has been elected a fellow of eight professional societies: the American Association for Advancement of Science, the Materials Research Society, the American Physical Society, the World Innovation Foundation, the American Society of Metals, the Institute of Physics, the American Ceramic Society and the World Technology Network.
Further honored for his achievements, Dr. Goyal received the E.O. Lawrence Award in the inaugural category of Energy Science & Innovation, bestowed by the U.S. Department of Energy Secretary on behalf of the President of the United States. Other impressive accolades include: 10 R&D 100 awards, which are widely regarded as the “Oscars for Innovation;” three National Federal Laboratory Consortium Awards for Technology Transfer; the 2012 World Technology Award in the category of materials; R&D 100 Magazine’s Innovator of the Year Award (2010) and, the same year, the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur; the Nano50TM Innovator Award (2008); the Pride of India Gold Award (2007); the University of Rochester’s Distinguished Scholar Medal (2007); the U.S. Department of Energy Exceptional Accomplishment Award (2005); the Energy-100 Award, a DOE honor recognizing the finest 100 scientific accomplishments since its creation in 1977 (2001); and the Lockheed-Martin NOVA Award for technical achievement (1999).

Dr. Goyal’s seminal influence on his field is perhaps best described by Zhong Lin Wang, PhD, a member of the Chinese and European Academies of Sciences and the Canadian Academy of Engineering, and the Regents Professor and Hightower Chair at Georgia Institute of Technology. “His work has transformed the field of applied superconductivity, and today all companies fabricating high-performance superconducting wires use one of his innovations to fabricate the wires,” Wang writes. “Clearly, his work and innovations have provided the United States with world-wide leadership and have significantly contributed to the economic, environmental and social well-being of the United States.”

Indeed, along with his faculty colleagues at the University at Buffalo and around the world, I fully concur with this assessment. Dr. Goyal’s exceptional record of scholarship, teaching and service has been a tremendous asset to the University at Buffalo, and to SUNY, and his impact on his field has been unparalleled. I give his nomination to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Professor my full and wholehearted recommendation.

Sincerely,

Satish K. Tripathi
President
January 10, 2020

Dr. Tod A. Laursen  
Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor  
State University Plaza  
353 Broadway  
Room S525  
Albany, NY 12246-2915

Dear Provost Laursen:

It is my pleasure to endorse and forward the dossier of Elad I. Levy, MD, MBA, University at Buffalo professor of neurosurgery and radiology and chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, for appointment to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Professor. Lauded as a “triple threat” for his excellence in research, teaching and service, Dr. Levy is held in the highest regard by his peers for having “established a national and international reputation as an outstanding clinician, clinical investigator and educator” in his field of neurosurgery and cerebrovascular surgical interventions. Further, he is described as “one of the true pioneers and leaders in this field” who “has few peers in vascular neurosurgery.”

Earning his MD from the George Washington University School of Medicine in 1997, Dr. Levy completed a surgical internship at the University of Pittsburgh the following year and his neurosurgical residency in 2004. During this time, he also accepted a position as a fellow in endovascular surgery at UB. In 2004, Dr. Levy joined UB’s faculty as an associate professor of neurosurgery and radiology. His rise through the academic ranks has been aptly characterized as “meteoric” given that he was promoted to professor with tenure in 2010 and appointed chair of the Department of Neurosurgery three years later. In addition to his medical degrees, Dr. Levy completed his master’s degree in business administration at Northeastern University in 2013.

An internationally recognized clinical and research expert in neurosurgical intervention in cerebrovascular disease—especially in the treatment of stroke, intracranial arterial stenosis and aneurysms—Dr. Levy has made seminal contributions to endovascular surgery, stroke prevention and stroke treatment.

Unlike basic science research, Dr. Levy’s clinical research is largely supported by corporate grants. Currently, he oversees more than a dozen clinical trials for stroke, aneurysms, carotid stenosis and other conditions; since arriving at UB, he has conducted more than two dozen clinical trials. As principal investigator or co-PI, Dr. Levy has garnered more than 40 grants totaling nearly $10 million from sources including the National Institutes of Health, the American Heart Association and the Boston Scientific Corporation. Dr. Levy is currently a co-investigator on an NIH grant to optimize approaches to endovascular therapy of acute ischemic stroke. He was previously a co-investigator on an NIH ROI grant (2010-14) and PI or co-investigator for five multiple-year clinical trials, and he continues to help devise, test and assess the safety and effectiveness of new devices and approaches for endovascular surgery and ischemic therapy. Further, Dr. Levy was the co-investigator on a 2012 American Heart
Association-funded MET A-review of stenting outcomes with thrombolytic intervention in asymptomatic patients with carotid stenosis.

Colleagues and peers marvel at Dr. Levy's production as a scholar, pointing to his impressive h-index of 76 as testament to the quality of his work. He has 49 first-author publications, 174 senior-author publications and 354 co-author or last-author publications, exemplifying his collaborative scholarly output. In addition to publishing in his field's flagship journals, he has co-edited four books and edited or authored 91 book chapters. Daniel Barrow, MD, professor and chair of neurosurgery at Emory University's School of Medicine, holds Dr. Levy's scholarly production in the highest regard. "Dr. Levy's work is not only prolific but regarded as the gold standard by which others are measured," he writes. "His research is performed carefully, honestly, and deliberately."

Among Dr. Levy's seminal achievements is his work to disprove the generally-held belief in the ineffectiveness of further endovascular treatment in patients not treated with an IV injection of recombinant tissue plasminogen (t-PA) within a few hours of suffering a stroke. Dr. Levy instead advocated for interventional endovascular thrombectomy if viable brain tissue is detected. Consequently, he was named the United States' principal investigator on a major international clinical trial—SWIFT PRIME—that conclusively demonstrated the superiority of mechanical thrombectomy. More recently, his group has been reporting the efficacy of thrombectomy on modern imaging diagnostics such as CT rather than strictly basing it on the time the patient arrived at the hospital. Truly, it would be difficult to underestimate how many people's lives have been positively impacted by the paradigm-changing ischemic stroke treatment pioneered by Dr. Levy.

Another of Dr. Levy's groundbreaking accomplishments was his development of an animal model of intracranial stent implantation, which allowed researchers to assess the safety of, and vessel response to, Sirolimus immunosuppressant drug-eluting stents for the first time. Professor Levy furthered this interdisciplinary study to understand the pharmacology of the treatment modality and test for neurotoxicity. Paul J. Camarata, MD, Professor and Chair of the University of Kansas Medical Center's Department of Neurosurgery, effusively praises Dr. Levy's innovations, writing: "He has been particularly active in advancing newer technology in this burgeoning field by participating in many clinical and pre-clinical research studies, including FDA-approval trials, NIH and industry-sponsored trials and investigator-initiated trials. His work in developing and pioneering the use of these novel devices has been instrumental throughout the world in helping cure many with previously incurable cerebrovascular disorders."

Rising through the ranks of one of the country’s two primary neurosurgery oversight organizations, Dr. Levy currently serves as secretary of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons and is expected to be named its next president. In his multiple roles in the Congress, he has developed the most robust online presence of any neurosurgical organization in the world, utilizing numerous platforms to deliver information to busy practitioners, including podcasts, webinars, on-demand videos, lectures and robust self-assessment tools.

A member of STROKE's editorial board of since 2006, Dr. Levy has served on the editorial board of Neurosurgery Journal from 2014-17, has been editor-in-chief of The NeuroReport since 2005 and serves as an ad hoc reviewer for an additional 17 highly ranked journals.
Additionally, he has served in numerous professional capacities, including co-chair (since 2007) of the Cerebrovascular Complications Conference at the American Association of Neurological Surgeons Congress of Neurological Surgeons, co-founder and board member of the Endovascular Neurosurgery Research Group, member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Best Practices and Ethical Standards for the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, and vice chair of the Scientific Planning Committee, for which he currently serves as the Executive Committee’s secretary. In 2013, the American Heart Association selected Dr. Levy to serve on the Manuscript Oversight Committee’s writing group for a scientific statement on the rationale for including and excluding criteria for intravenous thrombolysis. In 2017, he was appointed director of the American Board of Neurological Surgeons. Currently, he serves on the Ethics Committee of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. At the University at Buffalo, Dr. Levy has served as his department’s director of stroke research and as a member of the ad hoc committee for promotions to tenure. Active in the community, Dr. Levy is the founder and president of PUCCS—a charity aimed at understanding childhood concussion and stroke. He also serves on corporate advisory boards and provides case reviews for the Department of Health.

At local and national levels, Dr. Levy participates in activities that enhance the education of neurosurgical trainees. He has been a course instructor for the oral board preparatory course, assistant director of resident clinical education and director of his department’s Endovascular Fellowship Program. Since 2003, he has participated as a member of the course faculty at the American Association of Neurological Surgeons Annual Meeting. He was also course co-director of the carotid artery stenting training program at the former Millard Fillmore Gates Hospital in Buffalo in 2005 and taught in the carotid qualification program in 2006. The same year he lectured at the resident endovascular course in Memphis and presented at the cordis carotid artery stenting course and senior fellows training program in Cincinnati. Dr. Levy has also been guest examiner for spring oral exams nationally and has regularly contributed to teaching syllabi since 2003. A highly sought-after speaker, he has delivered 59 invited international presentations, 211 invited national presentations and lectures, and 28 visiting professor invited lectures and grand rounds at major universities, most recently Albert Einstein College of Medicine and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Nicholas Theodore, MD, the Donlin M. Long Professor of Neurosurgery, Orthopaedic Surgery and Biomedical Engineering at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, elaborates on Dr. Levy’s international reputation thusly: “Elad is an international expert in stroke and cerebrovascular neurosurgery. He is on every major committee in organized neurosurgery related to stroke and cerebrovascular surgery and has helped guide the specialty into its current position. He is a major contributor to the service of organized neurosurgery and recently was appointed as a Director of the American Board of Neurological Surgery, which is the highest distinction that a practicing neurosurgeon can achieve.”

Dr. Levy has worked diligently to mentor junior neurosurgeons and train colleagues for participation in clinical trials throughout his career. In 2018, he received the Teacher of the Year Award from UB’s Department of Family Medicine for his dedication to teaching and mentoring. As Neurosurgery Department Chairman, he has enhanced the department’s global reputation and increased the number of faculty.
SUNY Distinguished Professor Nomination
Elad Levy

A former protégé of Dr. Levy's, Peter Kan, MD, Associate Professor in the Department of Neurosurgery at Baylor College of Medicine, describes his influence as a mentor. “Dr. Levy is an extraordinary educator. In the angio suite, he is an intuitive, generous, and effective teacher who truly cares about fellow and resident education. Of all the teachers I had, he balances autonomy and teaching the best to optimize both education and patient outcomes. Apart from technical teaching, he is also extremely talented in clinical decision-making and has always emphasized and shared that with us, something I value greatly to this day. Dr. Levy is my most influential mentor. He is an exceptional role model as an academic neurosurgeon. He is the consummate clinician, teacher, scholar, innovator, and administrator.”

A member and fellow of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, the American College of Surgeons and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, Dr. Levy has achieved additional national and international prominence as one of 100 members of the American Academy of Neurosurgery and one of 12 members of the American Board of Neurosurgery. His clinical acumen, surgical skill and humanity have been recognized time and again with honors including the Hero of the Heart Award from the American Heart Association, the Distinguished Alumni Award from George Washington University and the first annual L. Nelson Hopkins Award in Endovascular Neurosurgery, given to an individual who has served and transformed endovascular neurosurgery on a global scale.

Dr. Elad Levy is an outstanding scholar, teacher and administrator. He is dedicated to his profession, his patients and his trainees, who will make his legacy known around the world. Perhaps best summing up Dr. Levy’s scholarly and professional excellence is Carl Heilman, MD, Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at Tufts University School of Medicine. “Elad Levy is a superb leader, teacher, innovator, and researcher,” Heilman writes. “His publications and trainees have dramatically advanced the field of neurosurgery. Endovascular fellows trained in Buffalo under Dr. Levy are now leaders in the field of cerebrovascular interventions.”

I enthusiastically agree with this assessment, as well as the endorsements of all of Dr. Levy’s colleagues, and I fully support his nomination to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Professor.

Sincerely,

Satish K. Tripathi
President
January 10, 2020

Dr. Tod A. Laursen  
Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor  
State University Plaza  
353 Broadway  
Room S525  
Albany, NY 12246-2915

Dear Provost Laursen:

It is my pleasure to endorse and forward the dossier of Stephen Tiffany, PhD, Empire Innovation Professor in the Department of Psychology in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University at Buffalo, for appointment to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Professor. An internationally recognized scholar in the field of addiction, Dr. Tiffany has made exceptional contributions to the field, specifically related to nicotine and tobacco research. Praised by his peers for his seminal research, he is described as “clearly one of the top addiction researchers in the world,” “an eminent scholar [whose] impact on the field has been tremendous” and “one of the leading lights in the field of addiction.”

Earning his PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1984, Dr. Tiffany joined the Department of Psychological Sciences at Purdue University as an Assistant Professor that same year. He was promoted with tenure to the rank of Associate Professor in 1990 and became a full Professor in 1994. In 2002, Dr. Tiffany joined the University of Utah’s School of Medicine, where he was jointly appointed as Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology. During his time at Utah’s School of Medicine, Dr. Tiffany also served as Associate Director for the Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center in the Veterans Affairs Salt Lake Health Care System from 2006-2007. In 2007, following a comprehensive international search, Dr. Tiffany joined the Department of Psychology at UB as the aforementioned Empire Innovation Professor.

The depth of Dr. Tiffany’s work on the role of craving in nicotine and tobacco use is revered by his peers as “remarkable.” Described as one of an elite number of clinical scientists whose research spans both animal and human models, Dr. Tiffany has taken a multifaceted approach to addiction that includes subjective, behavioral and physiological measures. Dr. Tiffany’s research builds and tests theories of addiction that have informed the evaluation and management of addiction in humans in real-world settings outside of the lab. As one example of his impact, the clinical scales he developed to measure craving are considered the “gold standard” in the field of alcohol and drug abuse.

A prolific scholar, Dr. Tiffany has had longstanding success securing large National Institutes of Health grants—including several from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)—which have continued without interruption throughout his career at UB. The UB Smoking Research Laboratory he established has been continuously funded by NIH grants totaling more than $8 million, including a current $3.7 million grant on cigarette smoking cessation and an active ROI grant extending through 2021. Even more impressive is the fact that Dr. Tiffany served as the chair of his department for seven years during this incredibly productive research phase.
As a direct result of Dr. Tiffany's work, the phenomenon of drug craving has been added as a diagnostic criterion in the latest revision of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual - 5th Edition*. Regarded as the diagnostic "bible" in clinical psychology, this resource is used throughout North America to categorize mental disorders in legal, educational, and medical records. Thus, Dr. Tiffany's studies of craving and their role in the nosology of addiction have helped reshape the structure of psychological disorders and how they are applied to those struggling with addiction. Dr. Tiffany has an impeccable record of publication, including more than 120 peer-reviewed research articles, with more than 20 that have appeared in just the last five years.

Indeed, the impact of his research continues to grow. Dr. Tiffany's published work boasts an impressive H-index of 54, with the top five papers cited over 600 times. A seminal paper outlining a cognitive model of craving has been cited more than 2,000 times, and a methodological paper on drug craving has been cited nearly 1,500 times. Dr. Tiffany is not only prolific; he has placed his research in the most selective journals in his field, including *Psychological Review, Nicotine and Tobacco Research, Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Journal of Abnormal Psychology and Biological Psychiatry*, and *Annals of the NY Academy of Science*. In addition, he has published 11 book chapters or monographs, four book reviews, and one co-edited book. An internationally sought-after speaker, Dr. Tiffany has given over 50 invited addresses at prestigious venues.

Dr. Tiffany has written several groundbreaking papers on the nature of craving and its role in addiction and relapse, which have served as the foundation for understanding craving and how it operates in addiction. Dr. Tiffany’s research addresses the cognitive, physiological, and psychological mechanisms that undergird the risk for, and resolution of, nicotine and other drug-use disorders. Although craving has long been recognized as a central feature of addiction, prior to Dr. Tiffany's scientific contributions, few scholars had written much about the phenomenon and its importance in the addictive processes—or studied how, when, and why craving occurs. Among the first to tackle these questions, Dr. Tiffany has conducted innovative studies on craving that have revolutionized the field. His seminal theoretical paper outlining a cognitive model of craving has been cited more than 2,000 times. Moreover, some of his papers are now required reading for many addictions courses across the country and world.

Placing perspective on Dr. Tiffany's impact on his field is Laurie Chassin, PhD, the Regents Professor of Psychology at Arizona State University. “He has made major contributions to the basic psychological science of addiction, particularly to our understanding of tolerance and craving,” Dr. Chassin writes. “This work has had major implications for addiction treatment, particularly for the field of smoking cessation. His work has remarkable breadth, deep grounding in theory, and a high level of methodological rigor.”

Revered by his colleagues for having “a singular and revolutionary impact on his field,” Dr. Tiffany provided a dominant theoretical perspective on craving and its relationship to drug use with his 1990 *Psychological Review* paper titled “A cognitive model of drug urges and drug-use behavior.” This rich and thoughtful application of the “automatic and non-automatic processes” has helped the field understand and predict the circumstances in which craving leads to drug use or relapse. Dr. Tiffany’s peers note that nearly 30 years after its publication, this foundational work is still being cited regularly—including 83 times last year alone. Known
widely as the “Tiffany model,” this application draws on contemporary cognitive science that
distinguishes automatic and non-automatic (controlled) cognitive processes. In a major
reconceptualization of drug urges (or cravings) and their role in drug use, Dr. Tiffany argues
that most drug use is a function of automatic processes (akin to driving a car) that did not
require conscious decisions. According to Dr. Tiffany’s model, conscious urges only emerged
when individuals were actively trying to avoid drug use or when their drug use was blocked.
The model has implications for understanding, studying and treating drug use as well as
preventing relapse. Thomas H. Brandon, PhD, Senior Member at the Moffitt Cancer Center
and Professor in the Departments of Psychology and Oncologic Sciences at the University of
South Florida, elaborates on the profound impact this research continues to have on the field.
“This model has had tremendous influence on the science of substance use and abuse, and as
suggested by its citation count, has influenced numerous research studies and subsequent
theories.” The contribution of this paper was crucial in setting the stage for Dr. Tiffany’s more
recent empirical and translational work.

As part of the Scientific Core Group of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Tobacco
Etiology Research Network (TERN) from 1997-2007, Dr. Tiffany led the team in a series of
studies that identified the proximal use of tobacco and alcohol in first-year college students.
This study led to a better understanding of the etiology of tobacco use and addiction and
validated a number of dependence measures, scales and time series analyses for future
research. George F. Koob, PhD, Director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and
Alcoholism at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services expounds on Dr. Tiffany’s
“many seminal contributions that have advanced the field of the science of addiction” and the
national impact his research has had. “Dr. Tiffany has been at the forefront of many advances
in the tobacco research field that have completely changed our perception of smoking and in
effect saved millions of lives, as smoking has steadily declined in the U.S. population,” he
writes. Similarly, Dr. Chassin emphasizes the real-world impact of Dr. Tiffany’s research on
smoking cessation: “His work has made major advances in the measurement, manipulation
and management of craving, which have been critically important for improving smoking
cessation.”

Continuing this seminal scholarship, Dr. Tiffany helped identify neuronal substrates of
tobacco craving and proposed a model for the neurodevelopmental pathology of tobacco
within the domain of impulsivity. He has gone on to pursue studies of biomarkers for nicotine
use, the use of virtual reality for craving studies and novel treatments for nicotine addiction.
Further, Dr. Tiffany recently developed a questionnaire that assesses craving in nicotine
vaping.

Lauded by peers as an “unfailingly generous colleague through his mentorship of
undergraduates and service to the department,” Dr. Tiffany has vast experience as a reviewer
of federal grants. He has also served as a standing member for three different NIH review
panels including Research, Prevention, and Intervention for Addictions (RPIA) from 2009-
2015, the Scientific Core Group of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Tobacco Etiology
Research Network (TERN) from 1997-2007 and Basic Behavioral Sciences Research
Subcommittee (NIDA-D) from 1997-1999. Dr. Tiffany also served as deputy editor for the top
specialty journal in his research area, Nicotine and Tobacco Research, from 2006-2009 and
as consulting editor for six journals over the last 30 years, including two top-tier journals he
served for a decade or more (Journal of Abnormal Psychology and Psychological Science). He has also been an ad hoc reviewer for numerous national and international agencies, including NIAAA, NIDA, SBIR, ACS, the VA, and the Medical Research Council of the United Kingdom. At UB, Dr. Tiffany has tirelessly served the university and the Department of Psychology in many capacities, most notably as the department chair from 2011-2018.

In addition to the undergraduate and graduate courses he regularly teaches, Dr. Tiffany has a national reputation as an excellent mentor to pre-doctoral students, postdoctoral trainees and junior faculty. These mentees have gone on to impressive academic careers including faculty appointments at the University of Vermont, the University of Kansas, the University of South Florida and the University of Pittsburgh—a testament to the time and energy that Dr. Tiffany has invested in their professional development.

Dr. Tiffany’s contributions to the field have been repeatedly and widely recognized. In addition to the aforementioned awarding of SUNY’s Empire Innovation Professorship, Dr. Tiffany received the Distinguished Scientific Award for Early Career Contribution to Psychology in 1993 from the world’s largest professional psychology organization, the American Psychological Association. This is a distinctly prestigious award shared by the very best psychologists. The following year, Dr. Tiffany was invited to deliver the 2004 Clinical Theme Lecture at the annual meeting of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT), a coveted honor that is given to only the finest researchers from this large research community. In 2018, Dr. Tiffany was elected as a fellow of SRNT, a recognition for a small group of distinguished group of scholars who have made sustained contributions to the field.

Dr. Tiffany’s peers consider him “clearly one of the top addiction researchers in the world.” Michael Sayette, PhD, Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh, sums up Dr. Tiffany’s scholarly achievements as follows. “Stephen Tiffany stands among the most eminent researchers studying addiction today. His work is well known internationally. His research has had a major impact on our theoretical understanding of addiction and has influenced the way that substance use disorders are classified.”

I wholeheartedly concur with this assessment and enthusiastically support and recommend Dr. Tiffany’s nomination to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Professor.

Sincerely,

Satish K. Tripathi
President
December 23, 2019

Dr. Tod A. Laursen, Provost
State University of New York
System Administration
State University Plaza
353 Broadway
Albany, NY 12246

Dear Provost Laursen:

I am pleased to endorse the nomination of Dr. Zhang Jie, Professor of Sociology at Buffalo State College for promotion to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Professor. The nomination committee, through a campus wide process, has determined that Professor Zhang’s achievements meet and often exceed the criteria and eligibility for this prestigious recognition. The nomination is fully supported by our campus community.

Dr. Zhang joined the Buffalo State faculty in 1997 and has held the rank of Full Professor since 2004. His curriculum vita documents that he has a laudable career and is nationally and internationally known for his work. He has presented at prestigious international and national conferences for over three decades. His research has been published, cited and references nationally and internationally. In the 90’s he began to delve deep into the critical and seldom reached area of suicides in China. This has and continues to be a serious public health crisis for that country. His foundation in this area was fortified when he became the co-director of the Institute of Behavioral Medicine at Dalian Medical University in China. His research program, which is well documented in the materials before you, demonstrates that his research has had a major impact on the field including the development of a methodology to document post suicide autopsy. His research has led him to seek and successfully garner millions of dollars to support his research from a variety of important agencies including NIH. When Dr. Zhang joined the faculty, he was already an established scholar, during his years here he has continued to advance his work and has become a truly international scholar and expert in suicide in China with specific foci on rural communities, gender differences and mental health concerns in China. He has been recognized by SUNY with several Chancellor’s awards, he has received national recognition for his work by several sociological journals and he has received international recognition by the American Association of Suicidology and significant journals within China.

His fellow faculty members also speak highly of him and of his achievements. One SUNY Distinguished Service Professor purports that Professor Zhang “…has demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities, sensitivity to the ever-changing needs of his profession, and the creative ability to transform innovative plans of action into workable realities for the teacher scholar.” One of my Deans says that she is certain “…Dr. Zhang has no peer in all of SUNY...
Jie

whose dedication to international educational opportunity and scholastic exchange has amassed so much evidence.” Finally, one of our campuses’ Associate Provosts highlights the fact that “Dr. Zhang has contributed tremendously to the field of sociology with a consistent and flawless record as an active scholar who produces excellence.”

Dr. Zhang has achieved national and international prominence and has distinguished reputation. He is placed in the top 0.1% of scholars writing about “suicide” over the past 10 years, a level labeled as “world Expert.” His scholarship is internationally recognized with receiving the Louis I. Dublin Award for Distinguished Contribution in the Area of Suicidology from American Association of Suicidology, and three publication awards from the Association of Chinese Professor of Social Sciences in the US. He serves as board members on the American Association of Suicidology and on the International Association of Suicide Prevention. He also directs the center for Suicide Prevention Research at Shandong University on China.

Dr. Zhang elevates the status of his department of sociology, Center of China Studies, SUNY Buffalo State and SUNY. Students, faculty and practitioners from the local, national and global community benefit from his research. With humility and pride, I enthusiastically endorse Dr. Zhang for the rank of SUNY Distinguished Professor.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Katherine Conway-Turner, Ph.D.
President

KCT/ mas
January 10, 2020

State University Senior Vice Chancellor and Provost
Dr. Tod Laursen
State University of New York
System Administration
State University Plaza
353 Broadway, Room S525
Albany, NY 12246

Letter of Endorsement for Distinguished Professorship (DP) Nomination of Joseph Scheer

Dear Dr. Laursen,

Although I am fairly new to the role of Vice President of Statutory Affairs for the New York State College of Ceramics, I am well aware of the tremendous impact that Professor Joseph Scheer has had on the NYSCC, the School of Art and Design, and Alfred University overall. To reach the level of Distinguished Professor, faculty are expected to deliver exemplary work in all categories of faculty obligations: teaching, scholarship, and service. Prof. Joseph Scheer has set an incredibly high bar in all of these areas.

Excerpts from Scheer’s outstanding and celebrated work showcasing moths – the subject of several international juried shows and dozens of publications detailed in the application.

Joseph Scheer is a Fulbright Scholar, Professor of Print Media, and Co-Director/Founder of the Institute for Electronic Arts at the School of Art and Design, Alfred University, New York. He has recently been elected Vice President of the International Academic Printmaking Alliance (IAPA) whose headquarters are in Beijing China. He has served as a panelist for the Fulbright Scholar Program for Mexico and Central America 2015 - 2017. He has also been a panelist for the NYFA print and drawing grants and was selected to be a nominator for the Macarthur Foundation. He received an MFA from the University of New Mexico in 1987.
His current works, which span print media, video, and web based projects, use technology to re-examine nature through interpretive collecting and visual recording. His work is in numerous international collections. This past summer a large selection of his work were featured in: China’s First Printmaking Festival and Exhibition, Guanlan Museum of Printmaking, Guanlan, China and the POP Gallery, Queensland College of Art, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia. Other recent exhibitions have taken place at The Yantai Museum of Art, Yantai, China the National Museum of China, Beijing, and T+H gallery Boston, MA. A recent show that traveled to four major museums in Sweden was comprised of 100 large format prints.

He has been invited to be a visiting artist lecturer over 70 times in locations spanning Europe, China, Australia, New Zealand and the United states. This past year includes: Tsinghua University, Beijing, University of New South Wales, Australia, Jilin College of Art, Changchun, China and the Central Academy of Fine arts in Beijing.

There are two notable books published about his work: Night Visions, the Secret Designs of Moths Prestel and Night Flyers, Nexus Press. His work has been written about in over 120 books and periodicals including: National Geographic, four articles in the New York Times, ArtNews, ArtForum, Science, Nature, Forbes, American Photo, DERSPIEGEL, and The Chronicle for Higher Education.

Interviews and discussions of his work have appeared on ABC News, The One Show, BBC News, Arts and Minds, of BRAVO TV, and Inside KUAT- TV/PBS, Tucson AZ. He has appeared on NPR in 8 locations across the country including; Fresh Air, NPR interview by Terry Gross and on a live one hour program, Of Moths and Myth, the connection – hosted by Dick Gordon, WBUR Boston.

He has received dozens of awards including: Awards in Recognition of Artistic Merit from the Constance Saltonstall Foundation for the Arts, the Stiftung Buchkunst award “Best Design Books of 2003” for his Night Visions work, a Fulbright to work in Sonora Mexico where he created much of his Landscapes work, The Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities from SUNY, the Research and Scholarship Award from the Research Foundation Honors, the 16th annual Gold Ink Award for a subset of his moth prints, the Nexus Press Project award, and the Frederick J. O’hara print award from the Fine Arts Museum in Santa Fe, NM.
Over 30 years of high quality teaching, over one hundred exhibitions all across the globe, his work is in hundreds of collections, and he has touched hundreds, if not thousands of students during his time here. He was a pioneer and started our Institute for Electronic Arts twenty years ago which now has garnered many awards and grants; his students from this institute have themselves won extensive awards including a recent “top 100 artist who defined the decade”. He has elevated the field of electronic arts, elevated the reputation of the New York State College of Ceramics, and elevated the SUNY brand and reputation as a result his achievements. In summary, I not only endorse but highly recommend him for a SUNY Distinguished Professorship.

As a Statutory college, the Distinguished designation award will be an honorific distinction.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gabrielle Gaustad
Dean, Inamori School of Engineering &
Vice President of Statutory Affairs at the New York State College of Ceramics
Kazuo Inamori School of Engineering
New York State College of Ceramics
Alfred University
P 607-871-2953; F 607-871-2354
E gaustad@alfred.edu
Wayne J. Riley, M.D., MBA, MPH, MACP
President

January 3, 2020

Tod A. Laursen, Ph.D.
Senior Vice Chancellor and Provost
The State University of New York
Systems Administration
State University Plaza
Albany, NY 12246

Dear Dr. Laursen:

It is my great honor to nominate Xian-Cheng Jiang, PhD for promotion to the rank of Distinguished Professor within The State University of New York (SUNY). His contributions to SUNY and SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University are noteworthy and deserving of this distinction.

Dr. Jiang joined Downstate in 2001 and now currently serves as Professor in the Department of Cell Biology. He is a pioneer and leader in the field of lipid biology. He was the first to explore the effects of phospholipid transfer protein, phospholipid remodeling, and sphingolipid biosynthesis on lipoprotein metabolism in the setting of cardiovascular disease. Dr. Jiang has built and maintained a significant active research program and his laboratory is currently supported by three active grants—two NIH RO1 grants (2018-2023 and 2019-2014) and one VA Merit grant (2016-2020). He has been continuously funded as a Principal Investigator (PI) on grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), American Heart Association (AHA), and Veterans Affair (VA) over the past 20 years. These projects have helped to revolutionize our understanding of the complex and intricate regulatory pathways of phospholipid metabolism. Additionally, his work has impacted our understanding of heart and vascular disease. Dr. Jiang has been inducted into the SUNY Downstate “Million Dollar Club,” which honors faculty members who have received $1M or more during the academic year for their funded research, public service or training programs.

Dr. Jiang is committed to Downstate’s educational mission and is an outstanding teacher and scientific mentor. Dr. Jiang serves as the Director of Histology and instructs first- and second-year medical students, as well as graduate students. He has trained 19 postdoctoral fellows and 12 predoctoral graduate students. His trainees conduct research all over the world. Dr. Jiang currently has two graduate students, four visiting
scholars, and a research Assistant Professor working in his laboratory.

Dr. Jiang has published his ground-breaking work in more than 170 peer-reviewed papers in journals such as: Nature Medicine, the Journal of Biological Chemistry, Molecular and Cellular Biology, The Journal of Lipid Research, and Thrombosis and Haemostasis. Additionally, he has published 19 review articles and book chapters. He is regularly requested as a guest speaker and has lectured and presented, locally, nationally and internationally. Dr. Jiang is currently associate editor of both the Journal Nutrition & Metabolism and The Journal of Lipid Research where he is a member of the editorial board. He serves on the Animal Studies sub committee for the Department of Veterans Affairs and has served as the Chairman of the New York Lipid Club. Lastly, he has served as both standing and an ad hoc member for multiple Veterans Affairs, American Heart Association, and NIH study sections.

Dr. Jiang’s service contributions to Downstate are also outstanding. He has served on the Dean’s Council for Education, the Committee on Academic and Professional Qualifications, and the Graduate School Admissions Committee. Dr. Jiang has organized the Molecular and Cellular Biology seminar series since 2016, serves as a poster reviewer for Downstate’s Annual Research Day, and serves as a co-organizer for the Downstate Chinese Student and Scholar Association. Additionally, as a way to connect with his many students, he participates in the Faculty Student Talent Show.

Dr. Jiang has received widespread recognition for his research and exceptional teaching and mentorship. He received the SUNY Downstate Medical Center President Research Award in 2002 and the SUNY Promising Inventor Awards in 2003 and 2005. In 2010, he was the recipient of the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities. Dr. Jiang was also the 2015 SUNY Downstate Medical Center Excellence in Education Award recipient and received the Alfred Stracher Faculty Recognition Award in 2018.

Dr. Jiang has a very strong record of continued excellence in research, teaching, mentorship, and service to the scientific community. He and his work embody the combination of outstanding qualities that define the rank of Distinguished Professor. I offer this nomination for this prestigious award with great enthusiasm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne J. Riley M.D.

State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University
450 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11203-2098 ★ Phone: 718.270.1000
Wayne J. Riley, M.D., MBA, MPH, MACP
President

January 3, 2020

Tod A. Laursen, Ph.D.
Senior Vice Chancellor and Provost
The State University of New York
Systems Administration
State University Plaza
Albany, NY 12246

Dear Dr. Laursen:

It is my great honor to nominate Sheryl S. Smith, Ph.D. for promotion to the rank of Distinguished Professor in The State University of New York (SUNY). Her contributions to SUNY and Downstate Health Sciences University are noteworthy and make her an excellent candidate for this honor.

Dr. Smith joined Downstate in 2000 and is a Professor in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology. Her research has achieved prominence and wide recognition within the Neuroscience community and has attracted considerable attention in the national and international media that have widely reported her work on Central Nervous System (CNS) changes related to puberty.

Dr. Smith is a pioneer in the field of neuroactive steroids and GABAA receptors. Her innovative findings show that inhibition plays a pivotal role in shaping brain circuits in adolescence that have far-reaching implications for mood, learning, and seizure potential. Her impressive level of productivity and the response of the international scientific community to her work, reflects her outstanding abilities and original approach. Dr. Smith identified a novel sub-type of GABAA receptor, α4po, which emerges in the brain at puberty. This work was unique because it was interdisciplinary and combined diverse techniques.

The period of adolescence is a pivotal time for the generation of mood disorders, altered learning potential, reorganization of brain circuits ("synaptic pruning"), and reduced potential for seizures, yet the mechanisms underlying these diverse developmental milestones remained unknown. The clinical relevance of Dr. Smith's work related to diseases of adolescence spans numerous areas including those with mood disorders such as anxiety disorders and premenstrual syndrome; cognitive/neuropsychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia and autism, as well as remission of childhood epilepsy in adolescence. Dr. Smith's use of pharmacological tools to manipulate pruning during adolescence have led to potential therapeutic strategies to improve some of the cognitive deficits of schizophrenia and autism. Her findings are also being used to study a drug that could potentially treat Angelman syndrome and epilepsy.
Dr. Smith's record of continuous federal funding for more than 30 years is a testament to her exceptional achievement as a researcher and a scholar. Dr. Smith's value at Downstate is indicated by her induction into the SUNY Downstate "Million Dollar Club," which honors faculty who have received $1M or more during the academic year for their funded research, public service or training programs.

She has served on several NIH study sections as a chartered member and has reviewed grants ad hoc for special emphasis panels. She has also reviewed grants internationally, including those from Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany and Switzerland. Dr. Smith is frequently invited as a national and international expert to deliver lectures on her research. She has organized workshops on neurosteroids and GABAA receptors for the Winter Conference on Brain Research and has been invited to chair scientific meetings on neurosteroids in Sweden on multiple occasions.

Dr. Smith has published research articles in 79 peer-reviewed journals, with 70 of these as the primary author. She has published in elite journals including Nature, Nature Neuroscience, Science, eLife and Scientific Reports. Dr. Smith has written book chapters and reviews for journals including Frontiers in Neuroscience and Neuroscience. Dr. Smith recently co-edited a piece for a special issue of Brain Research on "Adolescence and Synaptic Plasticity". Additionally, she was editor for a book on Neurosteroids and the GABAA receptor (CRC Press) that included contributions from most of the researchers in the field and was well-received by the scientific community. She is active as a manuscript reviewer for numerous journals, including 1 Neurosci, PNAS, and Nature Reviews.

Dr. Smith is committed to the Downstate educational mission. She teaches the Medical Neuroscience course in our College of Medicine and the Physiology course in our School of Health Professions. She has mentored 19 graduate students and seven post-doctoral fellows, as well as served on 23 Dissertation Defense Committees. Dr. Smith has served as the LCME coordinator, served on the College of Medicine and School of Graduate Studies Admissions Committees, and graciously served as a reviewer during the Downstate Annual Research Day. Dr. Smith was the primary organizer for the Neural and Behavioral Science (NBS) seminar series.

Dr. Smith has a very strong record of service to Downstate, the nation, and the world. She embodies the combination of outstanding qualities that define the rank of Distinguished Professor. I submit this nomination for this prestigious award without hesitation.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne J. Riley, M.D.

State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University
450 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11203-2098 ★ Phone: 718.270.1000
January 7, 2020

Tod A. Laursen, Ph.D.
Provost & Senior Vice Chancellor
SUNY System Administration
State University Plaza
353 Broadway, Room S525
Albany, NY 12246-2915

Dear Provost Laursen:

I am pleased to submit the supporting materials nominating Dr. Karin Limburg for the SUNY Distinguished Professor. Dr. Limburg is an exemplary scholar, teacher, scientist, and colleague who has maintained an exceptionally high level of professional productivity. She is an international expert in fisheries science and environmental economics, known especially for her work on otolithology and hypoxia in the ocean. She is an author on 115 peer-reviewed journal publications. Her scholarship is widely cited by colleagues with nearly 2,500 citations a year over the past five years, one of the highest at ESF. She has been the principal investigator for almost 50 grants worth millions of dollars. Her scholarship is recognized by the international scientific community, as indicated by the 2-5 invited/keynote presentations she gives annually.

Dr. Limburg is an exceptional collaborator and innovative researcher, focusing on important issues in the world’s fisheries. She joined ESF’s Department of Environmental Forestry and Biology in 1999, and she has been one of the College’s most productive researchers. She has performed research on the ancient fish of the Amazon, commercial cod stocks in the Baltic Sea, endangered species in the Grand Canyon, and the American shad in the Hudson River. She has created a robust research program focused on the anadromous fishes of the eastern United States and fish otolith microchemistry. For outstanding research record, she was recognized with the SUNY Chancellor’s Award in scholarship in 2018 and ESF’s exemplary researcher award in 2010. One external reviewer stated that “…Dr. Limburg is viewed as being one of the leaders of the field. Her international reputation is due not just because she is a highly productive scientist who maintains a large and skilled cadre of students and post-docs, it is also because she is a true innovator.”

Dr. Limburg is also dedicated to providing service. She has served as a reviewer for more than 20 journals, she has served as associate or co-editor for 5 journals, she has been a referee or panelist for 7 grant agencies, and she has served on numerous professional committees and review panels. She belongs to 9 professional societies. Karin was instrumental in founding the US Society of Ecological Economics: she served for several years as president and board member, and she is founding co-editor of the associated journal, Ecological Economics Reviews.
Dr. Limburg is especially skilled at mentoring. On the ESF campus, she has been active at both the college and department level, serving on important searches and committees. She is a valued colleague who has been willing to mentor other faculty members. She has sustained a robust group of highly productive and professionally successful graduate students, and Dr. Limburg is well regarded by her students. In the words of one of her recent Ph.D. students, Dr. Sara Turner, fish biologist for the Massachusetts Division and Marine Fisheries, who recently received the prestigious Emerging Leaders Award from the American Fisheries Society said “One of Dr. Limburg’s greatest talents is mentoring. She has an uncommon ability to share her passion for conducting relevant and often groundbreaking research with students and early career scientists, and instills in them the knowledge and skills to conduct sound science.”

Dr. Limburg is an international expert, a highly productive researcher, and a valuable colleague who contributes to every scholarly community she is a part of. I enthusiastically support this nomination for a deserving scholar who upholds the highest standards of excellence within the State University of New York.

Sincerely,

David C. Amberg, Ph.D.
Interim President
January 7, 2020

Dr. Tod Laursen
Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor
System Administration
State University Plaza
Albany, New York 12246

Dear Provost Laursen, Tod

I am very pleased to endorse the nomination of Professor Joel H. Saltz for the position of SUNY Distinguished Professor.

Prof. Saltz received both an M.D. and a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Duke University in 1985. He completed his residency in Clinical Pathology and Pathology Informatics at Johns Hopkins Medical Institutes. Prior to coming to Stony Brook, he held positions as a staff scientist and lead computer scientist at NASA Langley Research Center, as well as faculty appointments at Yale University, University of Maryland College Park, and Johns Hopkins Medical School. Prof. Saltz joined Stony Brook University as the Cherith Professor and Founding Chair of the Department of Biomedical Informatics in 2013, also serving as Vice President for Clinical Informatics and Associate Director of the Stony Brook University Cancer Center.

Dr. Saltz has performed groundbreaking work in bringing concepts from computer science and digital processing to clinical pathology, leading to significant improvements in diagnosis and patient outcomes. His innovative studies on whole slide imaging in the 1990s has led to improved analysis of previously extremely challenging cases of neuroblastoma and lymphoma, and in 2017 received FDA clearance to be used for primary pathology diagnosis. Dr. Saltz has recently developed artificial Intelligence/deep learning methods to create highly detailed maps of tumors and tumor infiltrating lymphocytes, and to reliably segment and classify cell nuclei. In addition to his research accomplishments, Dr. Saltz has been instrumental in growing the burgeoning field of bioinformatics. Before joining Stony Brook University, Dr. Saltz was the founding chair of two other highly-regarded bioinformatics departments, at Emory University and Ohio State University.
Since coming to Stony Brook, Dr. Saltz has received ~$10.1M of grant funding. His research program has been highly productive, resulting in 191 journal publications. Dr. Saltz has been recognized as a Fellow of the American College of Pathologists and the American College of Medical Informatics. He is a dedicated mentor, serving as an advisor to 35 postdoctoral researchers, 26 Ph.D. students, and 12 M.S. students. Dr. Saltz has been instrumental in developing and implementing new accredited programs at SBU, including the Ph.D., M.S., and Advanced Graduate Certificate programs in Biomedical Informatics and the Clinical Informatics Fellowship in the SBU School of Medicine.

External experts in Prof. Saltz’s area of research comment on his research achievements and impact on biomedical informatics, noting:

- Dr. Saltz '[s] intellectual contributions to the field have been very strong in cancer informatics, computing, and imaging, leveraging his deep experience in high-throughput pathology imaging and machine learning (ML) based classification. Dr. Saltz defined the field of cancer grids and federated infrastructure. His contributions to our field are seminal and very significant. Brian Athey, Savegeau Collegiate Professor and Chair, Department of Computational Medicine and Bioinformatics, University of Michigan Medical School
- [In comparing Dr. Saltz to another leader in the field] . . . I know of no other similarly distinguished computer scientist with a comparable range and breadth of research. I rank these two researchers as two very rare talents with both being leaders in applying computer science technologies to the field of medicine and genomics. Prof. Tony Hey, Rutherford Appleton Laboratories, U.K.
- It is seldom that a scientist has so much impact on two different areas [computer science and pathology] and then even more impact on the combination of the two. . . . His approach to pathology and cancer research based on precise and rigorous data enabled some of the advances that we have seen today. Lawrence Raughwerger, Eppright Professor of Computer Science, Texas A & M University (currently at University of Illinois Urbana Champaign)

Professor Joel Saltz is a productive and prominent scholar and a pioneer in his field. I fully support his nomination to the title of SUNY Distinguished Professor.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Michael A. Bernstein, Ph.D.
Professor of Business, Economics, and History
Interim President
January 7, 2020

Dr. Tod Laursen
Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor
System Administration
State University Plaza
Albany, New York 12246

Dear Provost Laursen, Tod

I am delighted to endorse the nomination of Professor Alexander B. Zamolodchikov for the position of SUNY Distinguished Professor.

Prof. Zamolodchikov received his PhD from the Institute of Theoretical and Experimental Physics in Moscow in 1978. He served as a researcher at the L.D. Landau Institute before moving to Rutgers University as a Professor of Physics in 1990, where he was named a Board of Governors Professor in 2005. Prof. Zamolodchikov joined Stony Brook in 2017 as the C. N. Yang – Wei Deng Professor of Physics.

Prof. Zamolodchikov’s research is in the field of theoretical physics, with specific contributions to conformal invariance, which has implications for the physics of solids and liquids. His landmark paper on conformal invariance with Belavin and Polyakov had widespread impact on a broad set of problems, ranging from the behavior of two-dimensional materials such nanosheets of graphene to superstrings in space-time. Prof. Zamolodchikov’s work also contributed to our understanding of critical phenomena and phase transitions, and has applications to quantum entanglement and quantum computation. His research program has been both productive and impactful, with ~80 publications and ~20,000 citations. Prof. Zamolodchikov was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences in 2016, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2012, and an American Physical Society (APS) Fellow in 2000. He is a recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship (1997), the APS Heinemann Prize for Mathematical Physics (1999), the von Humboldt Research Award (2004), the ICTP Dirac Medal (2011), and the APS Lars Onsager Prize (2011). Since coming to Stony Brook, Professor Zamolodchikov has been an exemplary colleague, research mentor,
and classroom teacher. Student evaluations in his most recent lecture course were outstanding, with an overall rating above nine on a scale of ten, and he graciously takes time to discuss scientific topics from and beyond the classroom.

Prominent physicists in Prof. Zamolodchikov’s area speak of his work in the strongest terms; for example:

- . . . with Belavin and Polyakov, he produced one of the most influential articles of our times . . . which gave birth to the whole new discipline, still flourishing nowadays, of conformal models. . . . In summary the world of theorists regard Zamolodchikov as one of the greatest mathematical physicists of our time. Edouard Brézin, Professor, LTP, Ecole Normale Superiére, Paris
- [His work] led to a partial solution of a large class of models and tremendous insight into their physical properties . . . This work has had more influence than almost any other paper on quantum field theory since the invention of renormalization. . . . Many of these systems have been realized in the laboratory. Nathan Seiberg, Professor, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton
- Zamolodchikov’s work was truly groundbreaking and its influence on theoretical physics and also mathematics . . . in the last 40 years is hard to overestimate. Arkady Tseytlin, Professor, Imperial College, London

Professor Alexander Zamolodchikov is an eminent physicist who has greatly contributed to our theoretical understanding of complex phenomena. I fully support his nomination to the title of SUNY Distinguished Professor.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Michael A. Bernstein, Ph.D.
Professor of Business, Economics, and History
Interim President