



Hackensack
Meridian *Health*



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November 11, 2020

Chair, Council of Scientific Excellence Warsaw, Poland

Re: Academic Promotion of Artur Jurczyszyn, MD, PhD

Dear Council Members:

It is an honor and a pleasure to write a letter of support for the academic promotion for my esteemed colleague, Dr. Artur Jurczyszyn to Full Professor of Medicine at the renowned Jagiellonian University. I have known Dr. Jurczyszyn for over 10 years. We have built a lasting friendship and collaborative scientific effort over these years. Artur and I have published together on over 25 peer reviewed scientific manuscripts. We have formed, with Dr. Jorge Castillo at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute at Harvard University, the nucleus of an international collaborative effort in the field of plasma cell dyscrasias which now includes myeloma specialists from over 20 different countries. Dr. Jurczyszyn has been the thought leader and impetus to “real world” diagnosis and management of a wide range of myeloma-related topics from the impact of high risk cytogenetic signatures in myeloma, to rare entities for which there was a paucity of literature, or none at all, including manifests on CNS myeloma, myeloma in pregnancy, myeloma in the very young, IgE myeloma, primary and secondary plasma cell leukemia. More recently, we have organized studies in “hot topics” including monoclonal gammopathy of renal significance, the impact of age on outcomes following high dose therapy with autologous transplant and the impact of renal insufficiency on treatment outcomes in myeloma. These efforts have been published in respected journals including Cancer, American Journal of Hematology, British Journal of Haematology and Leukemia. Indeed, many of these publications are the principal citations for these uncommon entities. In addition to our international collaborative efforts, Artur also participates in guidelines and consensus opinions published through the International Myeloma Working Group in which he has been a long-standing member. Finally, with his Polish colleagues, he has published a number of articles in both basic and clinical sciences as is evident on his extensive curriculum vitae.

MYELOMA DIVISION

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Dr. Jurczyszyn is a dedicated clinician, educator, colleague, husband and father. He has an extremely well-rounded life successfully mixing academic endeavors with personal interests. Together with his wife, Basia, they have formed the Center for Myeloma Treatment (www.szpiczak.org), a foundation that focuses its efforts on advancing the research and knowledge on plasma cell dyscrasias and patient assistance through financial and educational efforts. With the support of the Center for Myeloma Treatment, Dr. Jurczyszyn has established a yearly plasma cell dyscrasia symposium in Krakow for the past 8 years, a much anticipated and well attended symposium attended by hematologists from Poland and Eastern Europe-each year the conference has grown and international faculty more impressive. I look forward to next year's symposium, the IX International Conference "Complex Treatment of Plasma Cell Dyscrasia". I have been fortunate to be an invited speaker for 5 of the prior 8 symposia and look forward to next year's conference.

When we first met over 10 years ago, Dr. Jurczyszyn was in the learning phase of managing patients with myeloma. His knowledge base and management skills have evolved geometrically over this time-instead of consulting with me regarding optional care of his patient, Dr. Jurczyszyn is now the person who is sought out for his management skills. Further, he has continued his academic efforts with teaching of students and fellows. Indeed, his first PhD candidate has completed her thesis defense.

When reviewing Dr. Jurczyszyn's accomplishments over the past 10 years, I see an individual with enthusiasm, compassion, personal and professional growth. From a purely academic standpoint, he would certainly meet the standards for promotion to Professor of Medicine by United States standards. Thus, I would highly recommend and encourage, without reservation, that the Council of Scientific Excellence Warsaw, Poland, consider Dr. Jurczyszyn's promotion to Professor of Medicine.

Sincerely,

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