Date

NAME

Dean, Rush Medical College

Rush University Medical Center

600 South Paulina Street, Suite 202

Chicago, IL 60612

**RE: Dr. Smith – Promotion to Associate Professor of General Surgery**

Dear Dr. Krishnan,

It is with great enthusiasm that I propose Dr. Smith for promotion to the rank of Associate Professor of General Surgery at Rush University. She/He is being put forth for promotion based on excellence in Research and Education. This letter outlines Dr. Smith’s exemplary achievement as a physician-scientist and demonstrates his/her emerging national and international repute as a thought-leader in laparoscopic abdominal surgery. This promotion request has been approved by the Department of General Surgery’s Faculty Affairs Promotion’s Committee (functions as the Department’s Advisory Committee).

**Overview:**

Dr. Smith received his/her BS from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and his/her MD from the Harvard School of Medicine. He/She completed his/her surgical residency and his/her fellowship at Northwestern Hospital, Chicago, IL. In August 2009, he/she joined the faculty of the Department of General Surgery.

Over the six years that Dr. Smith has been at Rush, he/she has shown him/herself to be an impressively productive physician-scientist. In his/her second year at Rush, Dr. Smith became the interim Director of the Section of Minimally Invasive Surgery, and shortly after, the official Director of the program. Additionally, he/she was appointed the Director of the Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery. Even more remarkably, despite clinically, educationally, and administratively demanding service allocations, Dr. Smith channeled his/her passion and exemplary talent for research and built a thriving research career. The following summary outlines, in detail, Dr. Smith’s remarkable accomplishments and the clear reasoning for his/her promotional consideration to Associate Professor.

**Research:**

Dr. Smith began his/her physician-scientist career during his/her fellowship by securing several notable extramural research grants and winning several important young investigator awards. In six years, Dr. Smith built a formidable, nationally recognized, research program in his/her section at Rush. Dr. Smith’s research focuses on nutrition to aid in recovery from minimally invasive intestinal surgery. Dr. Smith is well funded, totaling over $4,000,000 in grants, provided by the NIH. He/she is the PI, co-PI, and/or site investigator on each of his/her current projects and demonstrates extraordinary equipoise and skill in balancing these projects.

Dr. Smith’s publication record is a reflection of his/her excellent research productivity with a total of 25 publications, 21 peer reviewed publications, 2 invited review articles, and 2 book chapters. His/her key role in these publications is demonstrated by her order of authorship, having been first (11), second (3) or senior (6) author on 20 of the 25 publications. All but three manuscripts have been published since 2011, and 18 are published since 2013. Dr. Smith’s publications are in prominent journals including Surgery, Nutrition, and the NEJM. The articles on nutrition to aid in recovery from minimally invasive surgery and has been cited 35 times since its publication in 2012. Dr. Smith also has 23 peer reviewed abstracts presented at premiere scientific meetings, including 3 international, 13 national, and 7 regional abstracts, of which 14 are first author and 5 are senior author abstracts.

He/she has mentored 15 trainees, resulting in 7 peer reviewed publications, 3 national abstracts, 3 local/regional abstracts, and 2 additional manuscripts that are currently under peer review. Of the 10 senior residents who recently graduated, Dr. Smith mentored 7 of the projects. It is no surprise he/she was nominated for the Rush Faculty Award for Excellence in Mentoring in both 2014 and 2015.

In short, Dr. Smith has built an impressive research career, research division, infrastructure for mentorship, and garnered remarkable recognition, funding, and acclaim for his/her fields of study from the major federal research agencies (CDC, NIH) and scientific peers.

**Education:**

Dr. Smith has dedicated himself/herself to educating colleagues and trainees both within Rush and well beyond its walls. He/She provides lectures for Rush medical students, nursing students, residents, and attending physicians. He/She serves as the Course Director for the General Surgery resident rotation and for the Rush Medical College student elective.

During his/her time on clinical service, rounding on General Surgery patients at Rush University Medical Center and Stroger Hospital, he/she teaches residents during inpatient rounds. His/Her teaching skills and style are so loved by the residents that they awarded him/her the Department of Surgery’s Attending of the Year award in 2010. His/Her cumulative annual teaching evaluation scores from residents are a perfect 5.0 (outstanding) and have been for the past five years. Furthermore, Dr. Smith has made the minimally invasive surgery elective one of the most popular by students and the section has been commended yearly for being one of the most frequent lecturing services (and most highly attended) at resident noon conferences and grand rounds.

Beyond Rush, Dr. Smith is recognized as an expert in his/her field on Minimally Invasive Surgery and nutrition to aid in recovery after surgery and is often invited regionally, nationally, and internationally by both media and the government to educate the public on laparoscopy and nutrition [presentations for and invitations by David Letterman and the Tonight Show, and the media: CBS TV - Pittsburgh, Chicago Tonight, and press: Brazil (Veja), Austria (Med Online), CNBC and US News and World Report]. Additionally, s/he is committed to educating the local, Chicago community about minimally invasive surgery and nutritional health benefits in recovery.

**Service and Leadership:**

Dr. Smith’s leadership and administrative service is extensive and remarkable. Most notably, he/she is the Director of the Section of Minimally Invasive Surgery. As part of his/her outstanding citizenship in the Department of Surgery, he/she has mentored 15 trainees. He/She is dedicated to the promotion of diversity within our institution and Department and works to ensure the success and retention of physicians from underrepresented populations. In recognition of these efforts, he/she has been nominated for the Rush J. Robert Clapp Jr., Diversity Leadership Award.

Outside of Rush, Dr. Smith serves on a journal’s editorial board and as a reviewer for ten journals, sits on the Center for Nutritional Epicenters Consortium, the Society for Healthcare Leadership Council, and the national meeting planning committees for the Minimally Invasive Surgical Society and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of Nutrition of the Americas.

**Clinical Care:**

Dr. Smith’s clinical impact is seen not only in his/her daily duties of patient care (inpatient and outpatient) at Rush and Stroger Hospital [12 – 28 weeks per year (day, night, weekend coverage) -- now less due to his/her NIH funding], but also institutionally, through his/her quality improvement and patient safety work. As the Minimally Invasive Control Officer for Rush Children’s Hospital, Dr. Smith is responsible for overseeing all inpatient and outpatient minimally invasive surgeries at Rush. Over the last year, he/she has been responsible for investigating outcomes and safety of minimally invasive surgeries at Rush. He/She initiated a project to increase use of nutritional snacks in Rush to aid in healing from laparoscopic surgery and this initiative resulted in a 2-fold improvement in length of stay for these post-operative patients.

In addition, Dr. Smith was invited by Dr. Omar Lateef, Chief Medical Officer of Rush University Medical Center, to represent Rush at a nutritional surgical convention. He/She is a member of the Rush Pharmacy and Therapeutics, Anti-Infective Subcommittee, and is responsible for antibiotic stewardship efforts in Rush’s Hospital. Furthermore, Dr. Smith has written several protocols for safety in ORs and minimally invasive surgery at Rush, many of which have been integrated into the electronic patient care procedures and order entry systems in order to support evidence based best practices to decrease medical errors, and he/she has served on five guidelines committees (chair/co-chair of three) including surgical recovery nutrition at Rush, Minimally Invasive Abdominal Surgery at Rush, and Committee on Committees.

**Support Letters:**

Letters of evaluation were sought from established authorities around the nation in minimally invasive abdominal surgery and nutrition to aid in surgical recovery. These letters come from prestigious academic institutions across the United States and provide strong support of Dr. Smith’s candidacy for promotion at Rush. An additional letter of support was obtained from a senior clinical physician-scientist from the NIH, and the letter attests to Dr. Smith’s national reputation in the field. His/Her letters of endorsement come from Dr. Lateef, Chief Medical Officer, Rush, Dr. Right, Chief Academic Officer, Cook County Health and Hospital Systems and Professor of Medicine, Rush Medical College, and from former mentees.

Letters of Evaluation Writers:

1. Jack Stone, MD

Associate Professor of Surgery

The Ohio State University

In his letter Dr. Awesome commented on Dr. Doo’s impressive accomplishments stating “…”

1. Jack Trades, MD, MEd

Medical Director of Patient Safety and Systems Reliability

Associate Professor of Surgery

Mercy Hospitals & Clinics

University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine

Dr. Trades in his letter stated that “….”

1. Samuel Marks, DO

Medical Director of Infection Control

Associate Professor Surgery

Oregon Health & Sciences University

Dr. Peeps in his letter stated that “….”

1. Punitha Reyes, MD

Senior Staff Clinician (equivalent to Associate professor in Academic institution), National Institute of Minimally Invasive Surgery

National Institutes of Health

Dr. Dayoff in his letter stated that “….”

In summary, Dr. Smith’s excellence in Research and Education, his/her impressive funding record, and his/her commitment to service and clinical excellence solidify his/her repute as a national/international innovator and leader in his/her field. I thoroughly support his/her application for promotion to the rank of Associate Professor.

Sincerely,