



Washington University in St. Louis

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

D.C. Rao, Professor & Director

Division of Biostatistics

November 20, 2012

Faculty Tenure and Promotion Committee
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
1825 Pressler Street
Houston, TX 77030

Dear Committee Members:

It gives me great pleasure to write this letter in the strongest possible support of Dr. Myriam Fornage's promotion to Professor of Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. I have known her for more than 15 years through our collaboration in the large multi-ethnic Family Blood Pressure Program (FBPP). I believe that promotion is the best way to let first-rate faculty know that they are highly valued, and Myriam certainly belongs to that group. Please do consider this as my strongest and most enthusiastic recommendation in support of her proposed promotion to the rank of Professor.

Dr. Fornage is a very hard-working, conscientious and dedicated scientist. She has made extensive contributions through her research in the molecular genetics of complex diseases, with an emphasis on cerebrovascular disease and stroke. She is currently collaboratively working on multiple high profile genetic studies aimed at identifying genes for cardiovascular traits using genome-wide association studies (GWAS) that include: the NHLBI Candidate Gene Association Resource (CARE) consortium, the NHGRI Gene Environment Association Studies (GENEVA) consortium, the NHGRI Population Architecture using Genomics and Epidemiology (PAGE) consortium, and the NHLBI Coronary Artery Disease Risk Development in Young Adults (CARDIA) which is a multi-center study of the distribution and evolution of coronary heart disease risk factors from young adulthood to middle-age. Her focus in the CARDIA study is the investigation of the interaction between genes and environmental factors that contribute to the development of coronary heart disease in young adults. Myriam is extremely competent, an outstanding collaborator and team player, a natural and very strong leader which is evidenced in her leadership of various research working groups and committees. Overall, her collaborative research shows both breadth and depth.

She has been extremely productive, with 87 peer-reviewed publications in top-quality journals such as *American Journal of Human Genetics*, *Atherosclerosis*, *Circulation*, *Genetic Epidemiology*, *Genomics*, *Human Genetics*, *Hypertension*, *PLoS ONE*, *Nature Genetics*, and the *New England Journal of Medicine*. An additional 10 publications have recently been submitted.

Myriam presents at the annual meetings of the American Society of Human Genetics, the International Society of Vascular Behavioral and Cognitive Disorders Conference, the Annual High Blood Pressure Research Conference, the International Stroke Genetics Consortium Meeting, the American

Heart Association Scientific Sessions, which confirms that she has earned her rightful place in terms of regional, national and international recognition.

Dr. Fornage performs other academic and professional activities which include editorial reviewer for reputed journals as well as peer reviewer for foreign scientific organizations. She has served on various national NIH committees and expert panels, including the leadership committee of the American Association Council on Functional Genomics and Translational Biology, notably serving as the liaison between the committee and the Stroke Council and various study sections. Myriam is very active in teaching and successfully mentoring graduate students, MPH students, and post-doctoral fellows, and is now a mentor in the development of and collaborator with two new junior faculty.

It is evident that Dr. Fornage has achieved national and international recognition, has made numerous high quality scholarly contributions and meets the criteria for promotion to Professor. In my opinion, she would certainly be eligible for such promotion here at Washington University School of Medicine. Dr. Fornage has my full and unequivocal support for this well-deserved promotion. It is a privilege to be able to write this letter, and I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D.C. Rao', with a stylized flourish at the end.

D.C. Rao, Ph.D.
Professor of Biostatistics
Director, Division of Biostatistics