



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

HUMAN GENETICS CENTER

December 21, 2012

James Geller

Department of Computer Science

NJIT

RE: Zhi Wei , Ph. D.

Dear Dr. Geller:

I am pleased to write this letter in evaluation of Dr. Zhi Wei's application for promotion to tenured Associate Professor in your department. I have known of Dr. Wei's work, though we have not interacted on any formal projects during that time. Based on my own knowledge of Dr. Wei's published work, as well as a thorough review of the materials that you forwarded to me, I feel confident in providing a strong recommendation in favor of Dr. Wei's tenure and promotion to Associate Professor.

I am a professor in the Division of Biostatistics and Human Genetics Center at the University of Texas School of Public Health and working on the statistic genetics and computation systems biology areas.

It is my opinion that Dr. Wei meets all criteria for the award of tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. This recommendation is based on (1) excellence in research, (2) commitment to teaching, (3) service to the department and institution and (4) national and international reputation. Dr. Wei is becoming an outstanding statistical geneticist and computational biologists. Dr. Wei performed and is performing strong and rigorous research. His strong publication record, given this innovative and productive line of research, is very strong. He has 27 publications in in peer-reviewed journals, 3 refereed conference papers, 20



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professional presentations, and two book chapter. Similarly, Dr. Wei's record of obtaining outside funding is extremely strong. He is the Principal Investigator (PI) of two grants, and Subcontract PI of two NIH grants. He has submitted 3 NSF, one NIH grant as PI and one NIH grants as subcontract PI which are in pending. In addition, he has applied a patent (In pending).

Dr. Wei's research is balanced between theoretical and applied works, and between independent and collaborative work. He has developed novel and powerful statistical methods for genetic epidemiology, Bioinformatics and computational biology. Dr. Wei has made great contributions to the development of statistical genetics and genetic epidemiology. He has developed several innovative methods to utilize biological pathway group-structured information and network-structured information for genomic data analysis. He has also been the first one to apply sophisticated machine learning approaches to build accurate disease risk predictive models for genome-wide association studies. His research works substantially advance our knowledge in statistical genetics and have great impact on the field of bioinformatics. Recently, Dr. Wei developed novel statistical methods and software for detecting genomic variants from individual or pooled next-generation sequencing data.

Dr. Wei is also successful instruction, student research supervision, and curriculum development. He has developed two new courses and taught five courses. The students highly appreciated his teaching in and outside of classes. Dr. Wei has served as four major advisor and 12 thesis committees. His teaching record is excellent.

Dr. Wei's service record is also very strong. Dr. Wei has served one university committee, four department committees, and organized seminar. He has reviewed grant proposals for The Research Grant Council (RGC) of Hong Kong. He has served as member of the editorial board for three journals. He has also reviewed numerous manuscript for the journals.



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In summary, I believe Dr. Wei's record to date clearly puts him at the top of his cohort. He has an outstanding intelligence, clear dedication to science and teaching. Dr. Wei is a leader in statistical genetics and Bioinformatics. It should be clear that if Dr. Zhi Wei were a candidate for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at the University Of Texas School Of Public Health, he would be tenured promoted to Associate Professor without concern. My only regret is that he is not on the faculty at the University Of Texas School Of Public Health. Therefore, I strongly support your decision to promote Dr. Zhi Wei to tenured Associate Professor.

Sincerely,

Momiao Xiong

Professor

Division of Biostatistics

Human Genetics Center

University of Texas School of Public Health