Professor Dacheng Tao
FAA FRSN FTWAS FAAAS FACM FIEEE
ARC Laureate Fellow

Sydney AI Centre
School of Computer Science
Faculty of Engineering
The University of Sydney
6 Cleveland St, Darlington
NSW 2008, Australia

dacheng.tao@sydney.edu.au
http://sydney.edu.au/

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Dear Search Committee:

I am very pleased to recommend Yixin Chen, Professor of Computer Science at the Washington University in St. Louis, for the position of Editor-in-Chief (EiC) of the ACM Transactions on Knowledge Discovery from Data (TKDD). I am Professor of Computer Science and ARC Laureate Fellow in the School of Computer Science, at The University of Sydney. My research results in artificial intelligence have expounded in one monograph and 200+ publications at prestigious journals and prominent conferences. I am a Fellow of the IEEE, ACM, AAAS and the Australian Academy of Science. I highly recommend Professor Chen because he is a world-renowned authority in the area of data mining and machine learning, who has provided strong leadership and extensive services to our research communities. He is an ideal candidate for the EiC of TKDD.

Professor Chen is a world-renowned researcher in the areas of data mining, knowledge engineering, machine learning, artificial intelligence, and optimization. He received his PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2005, under the guidance of Professor Benjamin W. Wah. He received the Best Paper Award at the American Medical Informatics Annual Fall Symposium (2015), Best Student Paper Runner-up Award at the ACM SIGKDD Conference (2014), Best Paper Award at the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (2010), and the Best Paper Award at IEEE International Conference on Tools for AI (2005). He also received Best Paper Award nominations at ACM CHI (2018), IEEE ICDM (2013), IEEE RTAS (2012), and KDD (2009). His work on planning has won First Prizes in the International Planning Competitions (2004 & 2006). He received an Early Career Principal Investigator Award from the Department of Energy (2006) and a Microsoft Research New Faculty Fellowship (2007). His research has been funded by NSF, NIH, DOE, Microsoft, Fujitsu, and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. He is highly cited with a total citation over 19,120 and an H-index of 69. He is elected an IEEE Fellow for his distinguished contributions to deep learning.

Professor Chen provided strong leadership and extensive services to our research communities. He has extensive experiences with editorial works for leading journals in our fields. He is serving and has served as an Associate Editor for ACM Transactions on Computing for Healthcare, ACM Transactions of Intelligent Systems and Technology, Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research, Annals of Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence and IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering. He has led as a Guest Editor for a Special Issue on Applications of Automated Planning in ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology (2010). He has served as a Program Chair for IEEE International Conference on Big Data (2021), Publicity Chair for the AAAI Conference (2015), Program Co-Chair for International Conference on Fuzzy Systems and Knowledge Discovery (2009), and Area Chair, SPC, and PC Members for many top conferences including KDD, NeurIPS, ICML, ICLR, AAAI, IJCAI, ICDM, SDM, CIKM, etc. He has served at

a panel reviewer for many organizations, including the National Science Foundation of USA, Qatar National Research Foundation, Hong Kong Research Grants Council, Swiss Science Fund, and Austrian Science Fund.

Personally, I have collaborated with Professor Chen on multiple journals, conferences, and committees. I found that Professor Chen is a great leader who is very energetic and dedicated to providing the best possible services to the research community. For example, when he is serving as the Associate Editor for IEEE TKDE from 2008-2012, I learned from colleagues and collaborators that he is very diligent and speedily handles paper submissions. When we both served as Area Chairs for a top conference, I found that he did an exemplary work analyzing difficult cases, organizing discussions and resolve disputes. Moreover, he is leading the IEEE P2894 special group in drafting IEEE XAI standard as the Co-Chair, for which one of my team members also joined. He did a great job attracting contributors from both academia and industry, organizing monthly meetings, and publishing the standard. Professor Chen has a wide range of collaborations and networking. He has collaborated with experts from healthcare, medicine, engineering, finance, economy, and biology. He has made significant contributions to knowledge discovery and data engineering in these interdisciplinary areas. I truly believe Professor Chen has the capability and resources to bring ACM TKDD to another level of impacts and excellence.

In summary, I give Professor Yixin Chen my strongest nomination for the EiC of TKDD. He has the perfect combination of expertise, connection, experiences, and vision for this key position. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any question or need additional information about him.

Yours sincerely,

Dacheng Tao, PhD