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Dr. Miguel Alcubierre Moya

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February 28, 2018

Dear Dr. Miguel Alcubierre Moya,

I am writing in support of the nomination of Professor Peter Otto Hess for the title “*Professor Emérito*” of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

I started to follow Prof Hess’s scientific activity in the field of group theoretical models of nuclear structure in the early 90’s. Our first personal contact occurred in 1994, when I visited a conference in Cocoyoc, Mexico. In the same year we started formalized collaboration under the bilateral exchange program of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the CONACyT. This project gave us (Prof. Hess, my colleague Prof. J. Cseh and myself) the opportunity to visit each other in the following years and to collaborate in the field of algebraic nuclear structure models.

Our collaboration turned out to be fruitful, and we applied successfully for further three-year projects after the termination of the first project. Altogether we had five three-year projects continuously, until 2009. Our working method was annual or bi-annual visits between Mexico and Hungary. We continued our joint work even after the termination of these project, in the form of occasional visits to each other. During this time we published about 20 joint scientific papers.

During the long years of our collaboration I could observe from close the excellence of Prof. Peter Hess in all the aspects of scientific research work, including the formulation of problems, solving them by working out the mathematical formalism as well as writing computer codes, and also the presentation of the results. I admired his inexhaustible energies and persistence in pursuing scientific problems. In addition to his research activity, which, as I know, extends to further fields besides nuclear theory, Prof. Hess invested a lot of energy in educating young

physicists at the UNAM. Several of his students became my/our co-authors. During my visits to Mexico I also met the colleagues of Prof. Hess at the Instituto de Ciencias Nucleares at UNAM, and learned about the world-class research work carried out there.

Our long collaboration also gave me the opportunity to get to know Prof. Hess not only from his scientific, but also his personal side. The results of our collaboration lie not only in our joint publications, but also in the pleasant memories of the times we spent together. These include long discussions on the culture and history of Mexico and Hungary, including also the culinary aspects of these countries. His openness and curiosity towards new things showed up not only in physics, but also in the exchange of ideas of all aspects of everyday life. I especially appreciated Prof. Hess's efforts to learn Hungarian, a language that is considered to be rather difficult to learn as a foreigner.

I am convinced that the activity of Prof. Hess resulted not only in advancing nuclear theory studies, but also in the education of talented young scientists in Mexico, as well as deepening the reputation of UNAM in the world-wide scientific community. For this reason I sincerely recommend his nomination for the *Profesor Emérito* title at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

Your sincerely,

Prof. Géza Lévai
Scientific Adviser
Deputy Director