

**Division of Health Services Research**

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**Subject:** Letter from direct supervisor for Dr. [redacted] 's application for promotion to the rank of full professor

Dear Dr. Delgado:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter to recommend [redacted], MD for promotion to Professor (clinical scientist, non-tenure track). I am an Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Director of the Division of Health Services Research (DHSR), the Associate Director of VA Health Services Research & Development (HSR&D) Center for Mental Healthcare and Outcomes Research, and the Director of the VA National Rural Evaluation Center. In these roles, I have worked with Dr. [redacted] closely on his research applications, attended his presentations, and supervised him in DHSR meetings. I have reviewed Dr. [redacted] 's CV and the College of Medicine's promotion and tenure guidelines and believe he meets the guidelines for promotion to Professor on the College of Medicine, clinical scientist, non-tenure track.

*Dr. [redacted] is clearly a leader in clinical service. He is board-certified in Psychiatry, Psychosomatic Medicine, and Geriatric Psychiatry. There are likely only a handful of clinicians in Arkansas with this level of expertise. There is a dire need for more geriatric psychiatrists; it is difficult to recruit them to academic medicine because psychiatrists are in high demand in the private sector where the income is considerably higher. Dr. [redacted] has established his leadership at UAMS by serving as the Associate Director for Clinical Programs of the Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC), medical director for the memory clinic and medical director for the neuromodulation program at CAVHS. He seems to have energized the investigators to conduct high- quality clinical demonstration projects. Under Dr. Padala's leadership the Little Rock GRECC has received over \$4.5 million in funding for clinical demonstration projects. He recently expanded the CAVHS memory clinic to rural Arkansas by adding a tele-memory clinic. Dr. [redacted] has also expanded the memory clinic to serve as a teaching site for 4<sup>th</sup>-year medical students (M4s) and geriatric psychiatry fellows. He was instrumental in expanding the transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) program at UAMS by obtaining a second machine via a national clinical grant. A clinical TMS program is being started at CAVHS and the funding obtained by Dr. [redacted] has supported the training of a physician and two nurses for this program.*

*Dr. [redacted] has carved a niche in apathy research and is well known nationally. He has conducted four randomized control trials for treatment of apathy in chronic diseases such as dementia and diabetes. Results from his VA Merit review study resulted in funding of a National Institute on Aging (NIA) multisite R01. He is currently serving as the site PI for this 10-site international study with the coordinating center at Johns Hopkins. He recently received a VA Merit grant to further his research on the role of repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS) in the treatment of apathy and its potential to prevent dementia. In addition he has collaborated with leaders in psychiatry. He is the site PI for the VA Cooperative Studies Program (CSP) #590 "Lithium use for suicide prevention" chaired by Dr. Ira*

Katz. Two other studies, “Escitalopram for Agitation in Alzheimer's Disease (S-CitAD)” and “Memory Improvement through Nicotine Dosing (MIND),” bring Prasad’s funding as PI to \$3.4 million, of which \$3.1 million were secured in the last five years. He has authored/co-authored 56 peer-reviewed publications in high-impact journals and eight textbook chapters. He has presented at over 40 national and international conferences. His presentations have received national awards including ‘best paper award’ and ‘best poster award.’ He has been actively sought after for invited lectures in both the US and India. He has served on study sections of NIH, VA, and the Alzheimer’s Association. He has served extensively as a peer reviewer for ten journals and reviewed abstract/symposia submissions for national conferences.

*has had great impact on educating the next generation of mental health providers.* He has served as a course leader for several courses. He has designed easy-to-understand curricula for residents and medical students and has consistently received excellent reviews for his teaching. His effectiveness as a teacher and mentor can be gleaned from the outstanding evaluations and growth of 18 young doctors that he has mentored over the years (listed in his CV). He has received several teaching awards including the Golden Apple Award that serve as confirmation of his excellent teaching abilities. He also has had tremendous influence on non-physician trainees and colleagues. One of his research assistants is currently completing pharmacy school and another was accepted into medical school. is also an innovator in education and has developed training programs for nursing staff about delirium and taught geriatric psychiatry for the GRECC national audioconference. Other educational activities include the delirium team-based learning in the geriatrics boot camp for M4s, clinical teaching in the memory clinic, active participation in the resident academic track mentoring in PRI, and the GRECC expansion trainees’ mentoring. Hence, he certainly sets an example in teaching for his colleagues both locally and nationally.

*Dr. has provided exemplary service to the medical community.* He has served as the chair of the abstract and poster selection committee for the 2017 annual meeting of the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry (AAGP) in which role he worked with reviewers across the nation to select the best research presentations. He is an active contributor to the Program Committee for the 2017 annual meeting of AAGP and has been a longstanding member on their research committee. served as chair of the New Investigator Awards Committee of the Alzheimer’s Association for which he coordinated reviews of national and international applications for the prestigious award which supports travel and registration to the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference. Dr. Padala’s other services include serving as past program director for the geriatric psychiatry fellowship, Institutional Review Board (IRB) chair, and President of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, Nebraska chapter. More recently, served as an external examiner for PhD thesis for the University of Toronto. Locally, Dr. volunteers in the Harmony Health Clinic which provides free medical and dental services to those without insurance.

In summary, Dr. would prove an invaluable faculty member in his role as Professor of Psychiatry. His drive, diverse skills, and accomplishments will be critical as mental health seeks to establish a strong path from research into practice at all levels. He is at or above the level of accomplishments required by the UAMS Promotion and Tenure Committee for promotion to Professor, and I recommend him for promotion without reservation.



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