

UAMS



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

SARA G. TARIQ, M.D.
Associate Professor of Medicine
Assistant Dean, Undergraduate
Medical Education
Medical Director, Center
for Clinical Skills Education
Course Director, Introduction
to Clinical Medicine II

October 1, 2013

**INTRODUCTION TO
CLINICAL MEDICINE II**

4301 W. Markham St., #735
Little Rock, AR 72205-7199

501-526-5968
501-603-1228 (fax)
501-686-5800 (ICM Office)
501-526-7964 (ICM Office fax)

TariqSaraC@uams.edu

Dear Dr. Turnage,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter recommending Dr. Matthew Steliga for promotion and tenure for the rank of Associate Professor of Surgery on the clinical educator track. Dr. Steliga and I have worked together in various roles in UME, including his leadership as Surgery Clerkship Director and now Co-Director. He serves on the two most important educational committees in the COM with me- the Curriculum Committee and the Academic Standards Committee. In addition, I have had the honor of mentoring him in his educational endeavors over the past few years.

As a person who views her work through education-colored glasses, I believe that being a great clinician-educator requires excellence in three competencies; 1) a passion and thorough understanding of education; 2) exemplary clinical care; 3) scholarship in one's field. According to these criteria, Dr. Steliga is the ideal academician.

Dr. Steliga approached me early in his career at UAMS when he took on the Surgery Clerkship Director position. He actively sought advice on how to improve his teaching and how to get students more engaged. I was very impressed by his insight and understanding of education and quite frankly, moved by his authenticity and sincerity. As a result of his efforts, Dr. Steliga was able to turn around the surgery clerkship in less than a year. It is now more organized, NBME scores have improved, and he has earned the respect and love of the students. Very quickly, he also earned the respect of the COM faculty. His name consistently comes up when we organize committees and address important educational challenges. He brings a level of leadership and efficiency to committee meetings that is very welcome, and his input and feedback is extremely valuable. The list of his accolades in education are extensive, but a few that stand out include the UAMS COM Golden Apple, Red Sash and Gold Sash awards- he has received



several of each- all from the medical students. In addition, he has won numerous teaching awards from the residents.

Scholarship is a distinction of the rank of associate professor. Dr. Steliga has published extensively in many highly reputed journals. He serves on expert panels on lung cancer management and is the recipient of multiple grants on education and public health related to tobacco smoking. In addition, he has presented at numerous national and international conferences. He has served as peer reviewer of not just topics in surgery, but also for AAMC's RIME (Research in Medical Education), the most prestigious educational research organization in the nation.

Dr. Steliga's clinical efforts frankly speak for themselves. He has very quickly earned an excellent reputation at UAMS- he is one of the few board certified cardiothoracic surgeons in the state. We share several patients, who all sing his praises. He consistently scores very high marks on patient satisfaction surveys and makes the Dean's List for Clinical Excellence. Dr. Steliga serves on multiple national and international surgical societies, including the International Society for Minimally Invasive Cardiothoracic Surgery and the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer- he was a peer reviewer in both of these organizations.

Promotion to the rank of Associate Professor indicates that the faculty member has matured as a scientist, educator, and clinician, while providing service to the college. Dr. Steliga's work and his curriculum vitae clearly supports that he has excelled in all of these areas. Where Dr. Steliga stands *above* the rest, in my opinion, is that he is also a phenomenal human being, who will go out of his way for people. He will take the extra hour to make sure that his students really *understand* the content he teaches, even when he doesn't have the time. He is humble and honest. I suppose it takes many years to be called a "Master Teacher", but Dr. Steliga is well on his way. I strongly support his promotion to Associate Professor with tenure.

Sincerely,



Sara G. Tariq, M.D., F.A.C.P.
Associate Professor, Internal Medicine
Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Clinical Education
Course Director, Introduction to Clinical Medicine II
Medical Director, Center for Clinical Skills Education