

UT SOUTHWESTERN
Heart, Lung & Vascular Center

DEPARTMENT OF
CARDIOVASCULAR &
THORACIC SURGERY

Kemp H. Kernstine, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor and Chairman
Division of Thoracic Surgery

August 19, 2013

Richard H. Turnage, MD
Professor and Chairman
Department of Surgery, Mail Slot 520
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
4301 W Markham Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

Re: Promotion of Dr. _____ to Associate Professor of Surgery, Clinical Educator Track

Dear Professor Turnage:

I have been asked to write a letter of recommendation for the promotion of Dr. _____ to the rank of Associate Professor of Surgery on the Clinical Educator Track at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. I have known Dr. _____ for the last two years and he has served as one of our editorial reviewers for the Journal *Innovations* for the last year. I am Professor of Surgery here at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and Chairman of the Division of Thoracic Surgery. I appreciate receiving and reviewing the guidelines for promotion and tenure at the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences Center.

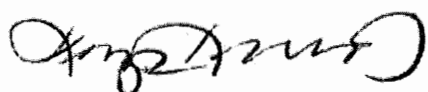
Dr. _____ is a general thoracic surgeon, a highly trained subspecialist in the field of cardiothoracic surgery. His cardiothoracic training was performed at the highly acclaimed Texas Heart Institute and then he completed a General Thoracic Surgery Fellowship at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in 2009. M.D. Anderson Cancer Center is one of the best training programs in the world for general thoracic surgery with specialty emphasis in cancer care. He published several peer reviewed articles during that time and participated in an international clinical symposium in Slovenia. His interest, training and experience make him particularly suited for academic practice.

In his four years of academic life, he has been quite successful at the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences Center accomplishing almost every goal of the clinical educator track. He has achieved clinical excellence as exemplified by his being on the "Dean's list: Circle of Excellence" since 2011 and being named to the Best Doctors List in the Arkansas Times. He is currently the Assistant Director of the Medical Student Surgery Clerkship and served as its director for a two year term from 2010-2012. He has received numerous teaching awards there at the University of Arkansas from both the surgery residents as well as the medical students demonstrating his excellent in teaching. He has six peer-reviewed publications, more than the one per year requisite for promotion. In addition he published one abstract,

three book chapters, one international review for the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer and three international expert panel publications. He has been and/or is currently an investigator, co-investigator or sub-investigator on seven clinical trials. Over the course of his young career he has participated in several leadership conferences and certificated programs. He has presented at 11 national/international conferences and three more are to be presented this October at the World Congress for Lung Cancer in Sydney, Australia. Locally he has demonstrated educational leadership and commitment by giving more than 110 presentations. He serves as an editorial reviewer for both *Innovations* and the *Journal of Thoracic Oncology*. Dr. Steliga has an impressive curriculum vitae and would certainly be promoted on our clinical track here at the University of Texas Southwestern.

If I can be of any service, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kemp H. Kernstine, Sr., M.D., Ph.D.

Professor and Chairman, Division of Thoracic Surgery

Robert Tucker Hayes Foundation Distinguished Chair in Cardiothoracic Surgery

Department of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery

The Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center

University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center and School of Medicine