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Chair, Academic Promotions Committee
Jagiellonian University

Re: Academic Promotion of Artur Jurczyszyn, MD, PhD

Dear Committee Members,

It is indeed a pleasure and an honor to write a letter of recommendation supporting the academic promotion of my colleague and friend, Dr. Artur Jurczyszyn, to Associate Professor of Medicine at the Jagiellonian University.

Dr. Jurczyszyn and I met a couple of years ago when he visited the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute for a rotation in the clinics and laboratory of the Myeloma and Waldenstrom Macroglobulinemia Research Centers. Artur spent a few days with me in my clinic, which specializes exclusively in patients with Waldenstrom Macroglobulinemia. During these days, I could observe Artur's interaction with patients and family members. He was always interested on knowing more about the background, the disease natural history and the newer discoveries that affect how we treat our patients. Artur has a keen mind, and I was impressed to see how well he communicated his points of view and opinions with other colleagues. Clinically speaking, Artur is thorough and inquisitive but also respectful and caring. Several patients actually asked about him when they came back in follow-up after Artur completed his rotation with us.

Around this time, we shared more than clinic hours but also long hours of discussion, usually over a meal, about the science behind plasma cell dyscrasias, a passion that we both have in common. He was already participating in a series of collaborative studies across several European countries. Artur is an active member of the International Myeloma Working Group, and he saw this as an opportunity for a series of studies focusing on rare complications of myeloma. This prompted a couple of international studies on patients with myeloma and involvement of the central nervous system, and

also patients with skin involvement by myeloma. I truly believe these efforts will be well read and well cited, and will push the field forward towards understanding how to better diagnose and treat these fatal complications.

Artur is also an avid basic and translational researcher. He has performed substantial work on understanding better the bone marrow microenvironment in myeloma, as well as the role that fatty acids play in the membrane of red blood cells and the serum of patients with myeloma. Artur has also been able to collaborate internationally for this purpose. Besides visiting the laboratories at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, he has also visited the laboratories at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and the John Theurer Cancer Center in Hackensack, NJ, where he has established research agreements.

Finally, Artur is also a compassionate human being. He and his wife Barbara are the founders of the Center for Myeloma Treatment (www.szpiczak.org), a foundation that focuses its efforts on advancing the research and knowledge on plasma cell dyscrasias through research and education. Through this foundation, Artur and Barbara have put together the Annual Conference in Plasma Cell Dyscrasias in Krakow. It was an honor to be invited as a speaker this year for the 4th Annual Conference, and get to experience Krakow and its beauty. I believe this Annual Conference will grow and become the premier conference for plasma cell dyscrasias in Eastern Europe.

Based on what I know about Artur, personally and professionally, I believe Artur would meet criteria to become an Associate Professor of Medicine at any university in the United States. Therefore, I recommend Dr. Jurczyszyn for promotion to Associate Professor at the Jagiellonian University without reservations. Artur and I will continue collaborating and looking for opportunities to learn more about myeloma and transfer that knowledge to other colleagues in the process. I would like to thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jorge J. Castillo', with a large, stylized initial 'J' and 'C'.

Jorge J. Castillo, MD