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September 28, 2023

College of Medicine Career Achievement Awards Nomination Committee  
College of Medicine  
University of Saskatchewan  
Saskatoon, SK

**Re: Nomination of Dr. Ali Rajput for the College of Medicine Career Achievement Award**

Dear Committee Member,

It is our great pleasure to nominate Dr. Ali Rajput for the 2023 College of Medicine Career Achievement Award. Throughout Dr. Rajput's career, he has solidified himself as one of the foremost researchers on Parkinson's disease through his research, clinical innovation, and leadership. Dr. Rajput is currently a Professor Emeritus in the Division of Neurology, Department of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan. Following his clinical training in Pakistan, USA, and Canada, Dr. Rajput took a position at the University of Saskatchewan in 1967 where he has been since.

The primary focus of Dr. Rajput's research has been around Parkinson's disease and the establishment of the Saskatchewan Movement Disorders Program. As we will outline below, Dr. Rajput has been an international leader in research capacity contributions, productivity and advancement, and community contributions. This has led to research translated into practice resulting in great impact on patient care. Through clinical observation, curiosity, and a focus on best care for his patients, Dr. Rajput was able to establish a world class research program accomplished by leading inter-disciplinary collaborations and innovative thinking. Dr. Rajput's research program also extended beyond clinical research into biomedical, social, environmental, and population based research.

Dr. Rajput has made significant contributions to research capacity. This has been the foundation of his research program and sets the stage for the description of his research advances that follow. While much of Dr. Rajput's past productivity has been built around the establishment of the Saskatchewan Movement Disorders Program, this established program will also be his legacy as there is enormous potential for future research opportunities.

Dr Rajput established the Saskatchewan Movement Disorders Program at the University of Saskatchewan in 1968. This program was initiated in response to the discovery and early implementation of Levodopa in Parkinson's Disease patients. Early on, this treatment was not available to the public but recognizing its importance, Dr. Rajput advocated for his patients and

began a research program in Saskatoon to gain access to this medication for patients in Saskatchewan, who previously would have had to travel to receive this treatment. As part of this research movement, a brain biobank was also created under Dr. Rajput's foresight and leadership. These events helped shape many years of research to date and will continue to do so for many years to come. As more evidence of his commitment to improving the health of patients with Parkinson's Disease, Dr. Rajput was also a founding member of the Saskatchewan Parkinson's Disease Foundation and established the "Ali Rajput Endowment for Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders".

Dr. Rajput has been very active in his training, mentoring and resource development for contributing to research and clinical capacity building. Over the course of his career, he has been involved in graduate student programs, supervised residents, and supervised many summer student research projects for medical students (almost one per year). He was the Neurology residency program director from 1985 to 1990, and was the Junior Undergrad Rotating Student Internship (JURSI) coordinator from 1985 to 2000. Finally, he has contributed to over 25 books or book chapters. There is no doubt that Dr. Rajput's quest for answers and commitment to his patients has been passed on to his trainees and, subsequently, their own research and clinical interests.

Throughout the advancement of Dr. Rajput's research program, he has enlisted many collaborators from across disciplines. He has also encouraged non-research clinicians to become interested in research, in at least one case, presenting on the different ways clinicians can become involved in research and stressing its importance. This talk was very powerful and pieces of it have been relayed to medical students through the undergraduate research theme for several years since.

Through his work in neurology and, specifically, Parkinson's Disease, Dr. Rajput has clearly made research advances, which has led to improvements in patient care. An obvious example is the aforementioned Movement Disorders Program. Through this innovative program (and beyond), Dr. Rajput has intertwined clinical practice and research, enhancing the impact on patients with Parkinson's Disease. His program has led to the conduct of a number of leading clinical trials with funding coming from industry and non-industry sources including the National Institutes of Health in the USA.

Based on pure research productivity metrics, he is one of the University of Saskatchewan's top 10 researchers. He has contributed to over 200 peer-reviewed research articles and over 200 conferences presentations and publications. From these, based on numbers from 2021 when his Google Scholar account was still active, he has amassed over 31,000 citations resulting in an H-Index of 92. He has given over 100 invited presentations with most of these being of national and international scope. In addition, he has been an invited scholar more than 20 times across Canada and Internationally. These numbers show exceptional productivity and international recognition.

As previously stated, Dr. Rajput is an internationally recognized leader in Parkinson's Disease. He has been involved in a number of community contributions around research in the area. Within Canada, he has served as a member of the scientific advisory committees for the Canadian Parkinson's foundation and Dystonia Foundations. Internationally, Dr. Rajput has been

a member of the World Health Organization's working group on Parkinson's Disease from 1998 to 2010 and a member of the World Federation of Neurology's Research Committee on Parkinsonism and Related Disorders from 1999 to present. In addition to being a peer reviewer for a large number of journals including the top journals in the world for neurology, he has completed a number of grant reviews and been a consultant for a large number of research and clinical inquiries including the submission of two reviews to the US Congress.

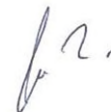
Given this long list of incredible achievements, Dr. Rajput's work has been consistently and widely recognized. From the University of Saskatchewan, he has received the Distinguished Professor Award (2013), is the only clinician to receive an Honorary Doctor of Science (2017) from the University of Saskatchewan and was the first clinical faculty member to receive the University of Saskatchewan's Distinguished Researcher Award (2002). He also received the Prime of Life Achievement Award from the University of Saskatchewan recognizing work excellence after formal retirement. Beyond the University of Saskatchewan, he has received the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation Career Achievement Award (2021), Saskatchewan Order of Merit (1993), Saskatchewan Centennial Medal (2005), Officer of the Order of Canada (1997), Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal (2002), Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012), and Queen's Platinum Jubilee Award (2023). Beyond research, Dr. Rajput has also been recognized for his clinical and community work as evidenced by receiving the Saskatchewan Physician of the Year (2006), Distinguished Canadian Award for Lifetime Achievement in Medicine, the Morton Schulman Award presented by the Parkinson's Society Canada, and Saskatoon Citizen of the Year Award (2006).

In closing, we believe that Dr. Rajput is more than deserving of receiving the College of Medicine Career Achievement Award. He has shown leadership in research within Saskatchewan for several decades including contributing significantly to research capacity building, advances, and community contributions. Thank you for considering this nomination.

Sincerely,



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