



DIVISION OF CARDIOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE, 0613B
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To whom it may concern:

I am very pleased to recommend **Ciro Indolfi M.D.** for promotion to the rank of full Professor at Cardiology. I have known Dr. Indolfi and closely followed his career, particularly his research and other scientific activities, since 1987 when he joined my laboratory for a one year period as a post-doctoral fellow. Subsequently he served as Assistant Professor of Cardiology at the University **Frederico II** in Naples before becoming Associate Professor of Cardiology and Professor of Invasive Cardiology at the University of Catanzaro, in 2000.

Dr. **Indolfi's** research has been highly productive. His studies in my laboratory first demonstrated the mechanism of the beneficial effect of reduced heart rate on regional blood flow and function (perfusion --contraction matching, ref 33) in a controlled animal model (Biblio ref 17, Indolfi et al, *Circulation* **80:983**, 1987, and Indolfi et al, *Am J. Physiol.* **261:H910**, 1991). He was a coauthor on several other papers during that period and participated in studies on coronary alpha-adrenergic blockade. On his return to Italy, he performed the first definitive clinical studies on the detrimental effect of coronary alpha- adrenergic stimulation in the presence and absence of coronary disease (32, Indolfi et al. *Circulation.* **86: 1116**, 1992). He subsequently described abnormal alpha-1 and alpha-2 forearm vascular responses in patients with heart failure (41. Indolfi et al *Circulation* **90: 17**, 1994).

Dr. Indolfi's subsequent research resulted in a number of publications with clinical invasive coronary procedures, and in particular on the problem of restenosis. An important study in 1995 first demonstrated the role of the signaling protein RAS in restenosis by showing that RAS inhibition could reduce smooth muscle cell (SMC) proliferation (47. Indolfi et al. *Nature Medicine* **6:541**, 1995); associated studies in the rat showed that the degree of intimal injury correlated with the amount of SMC proliferation (50. Indolfi et al. *Circulation* **94: 2712**, 1996). He then became interested in gene therapy for this disorder (52), and applied gene transfer to inhibit the MAP kinase signaling pathway (56) and to activate cAMP/PKA signaling for inhibition of SMC proliferation (55. Indolfi et al. *Nature Medicine* **4:775**, 1997). His work continued with demonstration of the mechanism by which PKA inhibits SMC proliferation (Indolfi et al. *Circ. Res.* **88:3 19**, 2001). Dr. Indolfi also tested effects of other agents on intimal proliferation (66), including the effects of a C_oA reductase inhibitor to reduce SMC proliferation after vascular injury (68. Indolfi et al *J. Am. Coll. Cardiol* **35:214**, 2000).



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Recently he has investigated balloon injury and intimal proliferation in diabetic rats (Indolfi et al Circulation 103: 2980, 2001).

These research accomplishments, generally published in top journals, indicate that Dr. Indolfi has achieved a substantial international reputation as a research scientist. Other evidence is provided by many invitations to lecture at international meetings, on such topics as myocardial ischemia, alpha-adrenergic receptors, invasive cardiologic methods, restenosis and its inhibition, and gene therapy, at many meetings Italy, as well as in Norway, The United Kingdom, Germany and Japan, with other presentation at American Heart Association meetings in the U.S.

Since his arrival in Catanzaro, Dr. Indolfi has opened a Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, making diagnostic and invasive procedures available to a large referral base. He has developed a course in cardiology for 4th year medical students, as well as a post-graduate training program in Cardiology (currently 4 fellows), and he continues to teach and perform procedure at the university in Naples on a regular basis.

In my view, Dr. Indolfi's many fine accomplishments well warrant promotion to full Professor, and I am pleased to endorse it with great enthusiasm.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Ross Jr.", written in a cursive style.

John Ross, Jr., M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Institute of Molecular Medicine, UCSD