

October 29, 2004

Dear Nominating Committee:

I am pleased to have the opportunity to nominate Charis Eng, MD, PhD, FACP, holder of the OSU Dorothy E. Klotz Endowed Chair in Cancer Research, as an American Medical Women's Association Local Legend. Dr. Eng's deep commitment to her groundbreaking biomedical research in the genetics of cancer; to translating her research findings into diagnosis, prognosis, prevention and treatments for cancer patients; to educating and training students, physicians and scientists at all levels; and her international renown as a physician-scientist uniquely trained in both medical oncology and clinical cancer genetics all make her an outstanding choice for this honor.

Dr. Eng is professor and director of the Division of Human Genetics in the Department of Internal Medicine. In addition, she directs the Clinical Cancer Genetics Program of the Human Cancer Genetics Program in the OSU Comprehensive Cancer Center; and she holds appointments as professor in the Departments of Molecular Virology, Immunology and Medical Genetics and of Pharmacology.

Dr. Eng reflects the depth of her commitment when she describes her work as "truly the fulfillment of a lifelong dream." She first thought of becoming a physician and scientist as a fourth-grader in her native Singapore. During eighth-grade genetics studies at the University of Chicago's Laboratory School, Dr. Eng decided to combine her fascination with genetics and cancer to become a cancer geneticist – a completely new idea at the time.

She entered the University of Chicago at age sixteen, and went on to earn obtain her PhD in Developmental Biology and her MD at the University of Chicago in 1986 and 1988, respectively. She received additional training in internal medicine at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston and completed a fellowship in medical oncology at Harvard's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Dr. Eng pursued formal training in clinical cancer genetics, as well as a postdoctoral human cancer genetics research fellowship, at the University of Cambridge, UK. Afterwards, she joined the faculty of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School at the end of 1995, and was recruited to The Ohio State University in 1999.

Today, Dr. Eng's Clinical Cancer Genetics Translational Research Laboratory performs nucleic acid- and protein-based work to identify, characterize and understand genes that cause susceptibility to inherited cancer syndromes, to determine their role in sporadic carcinogenesis and to perform molecular epidemiologic analyses as they might relate to future clinical applications.

Dr. Eng was the first in the world to map and identify *PTEN*, the gene that codes for a tumor suppressor phosphatase on chromosome 10. This has proven to be a major factor in determining susceptibility for Cowden syndrome (an inherited syndrome with a high risk of breast, thyroid and endometrial carcinoma) and related diseases. Dr. Eng has conducted extensive research on

characterizing *PTEN*, showing that it suppresses tumor growth, and has investigated genetic mechanisms of *PTEN* inactivation. Her findings have been, and will continue to be, translated to clinical use.

An honorary Fellow of Cancer Research UK Human Cancer Genetics Research Group at the University of Cambridge, Dr. Eng has a notable research career. She has served as principal investigator (PI) since 1995 for twenty-four research grants from top-level organizations such as the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense US Army Breast Cancer Research Program, American Cancer Society, V Foundation, Susan G. Komen Cancer Research Foundation and Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation. Dr. Eng also has been co-PI or mentor for seven awards during the same period, including the Ohio Biomedical Research Technology Transfer award for gastrointestinal cancer genetics and the bioinformatics platform.

Author of more than 225 peer-reviewed original papers and forty-five review articles and editorials in such journals as the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Lancet*, *JAMA*, *Nature Genetics*, *Nature* and *Molecular Cell*, Dr. Eng is the North American Editor and Cancer Genetics Associate Editor of the *Journal of Medical Genetics*, an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism* and a Senior Editor of *Cancer Research*. Dr. Eng has also contributed to thirty books and monographs and has presented 117 abstracts at scientific meetings around the world.

Dr. Eng served as the genetics editor for the recently published "World Health Organization (WHO) Classification of Endocrine Tumours" and has been a member of the subcommittee which wrote the American Society of Clinical Oncology Policy Statement on Cancer Genetic Testing. Dr. Eng is a member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network's Genetics/High Risk Guidelines Panel.

Dr. Eng is equally committed to the future of research and clinical care. She taught medical, graduate and postdoctoral students and fellows at the Harvard School of Medicine and of Public Health, and continues to do so at Ohio State. She also created an entirely new fellowship program in clinical cancer genetics at OSU and wrote the "Human Genetics: From Bench to Bedside" module for the College of Medicine and Public Health's nationally known Integrated Biomedical Graduate Program for graduate and combined MD/PhD students. As well, Dr. Eng has lectured clinical faculty and has taught continuing medical education courses at Ohio State and across the country.

In addition, she has served as mentor to trainees at all levels including twenty-seven postdoctoral trainees, three Clinical Cancer Genetics Fellowship trainees and eight graduate student trainees. She has been a member of six students' PhD dissertation committees, and 11 of her MD and PhD trainees have received notable awards. Dr. Eng has mentored six junior faculty who have received important funding and fellowship awards.

Finally, Dr. Eng was the genetics consultant to the Discovery Health Channel and Natural History New Zealand documentary, "Curse of the Elephant Man," which traced the genetic causes of this famous individual's disfiguring disorder. The documentary received First Prize in the 2003 Brazilian Film Festival and the Bronze Medal in the 2004 New York Film Festival.

Dr. Charis Eng's work has brought prevention and healing to patients and national and international distinction to the OSU Medical Center, University, city of Columbus and the state of Ohio. I am proud to nominate her as an American Medical Women's Association Local Legend.

Very Truly Yours,

DEBORAH PRYCE
Member of Congress