



University of Pittsburgh

School of Medicine

Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute

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October 31, 2002

Thomas Nasca, M.D.
Dean, Jefferson Medical College
1015 Walnut Street
Room 620 Curtis
Philadelphia, PA 19107-2878

Dear Dr. Nasca:

I have known Dr. Ignazio Marino, Professor of Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh, for 17 years and have had close professional contact with him for most of this time. I support his appointment to your faculty as a Professor without reservation. Our association began when he was a research fellow in transplantation in Pittsburgh from 1985 to 1987, on loan from his Assistant Professorship of Surgery at the Catholic University, Faculty of Medicine, in Rome. He had already compiled an impressive record in research, teaching and clinical practice. His career since then has been one of steady advancement.

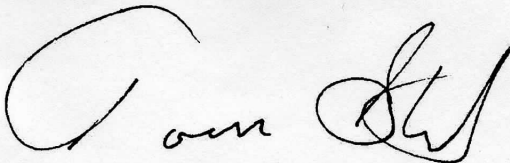
Dr. Marino has published well over 500 papers in refereed journals including The Lancet, Hepatology, Transplantation, Cancer, Annals of Surgery, and Archives of Surgery. Much of his work has been specific to the liver or liver transplantation, including a most important contribution clarifying the antibody mediated phenomena following liver replacement in recipients previously immunized to HLA antigens. He also has produced the best analyses extant on risk factors in liver transplantation. These include unique observations

about the prognostic effect of donor and recipient age, donor sex, and co-morbid conditions. He also has become a world authority on hepatidites in the transplantation context.

Dr. Marino has been a full-time faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh since 1990. By 1993, he had become Director of the VA component of our liver transplant program and a valuable contributor to the divisional administrative activities. In 1997, he was appointed Director and CEO of Mediterranean Institute for Transplantation and Advanced Specialized Therapies (ISMETT) – a joint venture between the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and the Italian national Government. This was a monumental task, which he discharged with great distinction. His Palermo program became a crown jewel of Sicily and the envy of many of the more comfortable programs in less crime-ridden mainland Italy. His recent resignation from this post was based on the highest ethical considerations. It was a conscience-driven decision for which I admire him.

Now, 47 years old, Dr. Marino is reaching the peak of his career. From what he has already accomplished, I am assured that he will contribute richly to the surgery of transplantation, and of equal importance, to society. In addition to his professional qualifications, he is a highly personable individual with an equally pleasant wife and an adopted orphan daughter from South America. I am confident that he will be a valuable member of your faculty and a convivial addition to your academic environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Starzl", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas E. Starzl, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor of Surgery