MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
Mountains & Minds

July 2, 2026

Dear Regents Professor Nomination Review Committee,

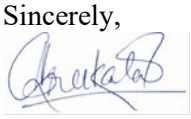
I am honored to nominate **Dr. Jovanka M. Voyich**, Professor and Department Head in the Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology and professor in the WWAMI Medical Education Program at Montana State University, for appointment as a Regents Professor.

Dr. Voyich is an internationally recognized scholar in bacterial pathogenesis whose work has advanced understanding of host-pathogen interactions and innate immune evasion by *Staphylococcus aureus*. A Montana State University alumna with postdoctoral training at the NIH Rocky Mountain Laboratories, she has built a career that bridges molecular microbiology, translational discovery, exceptional teaching, and high-impact academic leadership.

Since joining Montana State University in 2006, Dr. Voyich has sustained a nationally competitive, continuously NIH-funded research program, securing well over $20 M in external support and publishing a distinguished body of scholarship in leading journals. Her work on the SaeR/S regulatory system, neutrophil-pathogen interactions, secondary bacterial pneumonia, and biofilm-related infection has shaped the field and informed new therapeutic strategies aimed at reducing reliance on antibiotics. Her impact as a mentor and educator is equally distinguished. She has trained nearly 100 undergraduate students, mentored many students and junior faculty through major NIH-supported programs, and earned multiple teaching, mentorship, and service awards. She is known for her deep commitment to student success. Dr. Voyich exemplifies institutional leadership and service. She leads a complex academic unit while maintaining an NIH-funded laboratory and teaching in the WWAMI *program*. She has chaired major institutional committees, including the Institutional Biosafety Committee, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, and Conflict of Interest Committee, and has contributed nationally through NIH review panels and editorial service.

Jovanka's record reflects the best of the land-grant mission: discovery connected to public purpose. Through One Medicine, health disparities research, rural and Tribal outreach, 4-H bioscience education, Curiositas undergraduate research journal, and hands-on microbiology programs across Montana, she has expanded the reach and relevance of biomedical science. Dr. Voyich exemplifies the highest standards of scholarly excellence, teaching and mentoring distinction, institutional service, and academic leadership. Her sustained contributions to science, student success, faculty development, and MSU represent the level of distinction, impact, and institutional value that the Regents Professor honor is intended to recognize. I strongly and enthusiastically nominate Dr. Jovanka M. Voyich for appointment as Regents Professor.

Sincerely,



Sreekala Bajwa, Dean, Director & VP for Agriculture, Montana State University