


September 29, 2026

**RE: Letter of Recommendation for Dr. Jovanka Voyich**

Dear Regents Professor Nomination Review Committee:

I am both honored and pleased to be able to recommend Dr. Jovanka Voyich for appointment as a Regents Professor, a title and position reserved for exceptional individuals. As a complete outsider to the Montana State University programs, I feel my role is to evaluate Jovanka's research accomplishments based on her publications, funding and status as a Staphylococcal investigator. Her curriculum vitae speaks for itself, as she has maintained a successful research program since 2006, is recognized nationally and internationally, and has made significant contributions to the study of regulatory circuitry in two component systems in *S. aureus* and their interactions with host.

Jovanka's success is not surprising as I witnessed her maturation as a scientist starting from her post-doctoral experience in NIH Rocky Mountain laboratory under the guidance of Dr. Frank DeLeo, a close friend and colleague. Her research focused on pathogen-host studies in *S. aureus* and her growth as a scientist is reflected in her stellar publication record which includes five papers we co-authored together from 2005-2018. As a collaborator, Jovanka demonstrated both a high standard working at the bench, but also regarding the ethical and professional qualities that guide her personality and her interactions with her peers and students.

I had the pleasure of visiting and lecturing at Montana State University during the years of Jovanka's tenure and that included when she was an assistant professor in 2008 and then again, 10 years later when she was an associate professor. What struck me then, and what is clearly true today, is Jovanka's positive impact and commitment to the graduate students, her respect from the faculty and her overall passion in providing a great research and academic environment at Montana State University.

Overall, in assessing Jovanka's successful career, I realized that her love and dedication as a mentor and educator are qualities that were likely passed down from her father's role as a principal and provided the foundation to juggle her many tasks and responsibilities as an administer and scientist.

I strongly support Jovanka's nomination for Regents Professor as her contribution to Montana State University in science, education, faculty development and the growth of the institution are commendable and worthy of recognition.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Kreiswirth, PhD
Director and Research Scientist
Center for Discovery and Innovation
Professor of Medicine
Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine