

To: Patrick J. Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity

From: Arvind Raman, John A. Edwardson Dean of the College of Engineering *Arvind Raman*

Date: August 24, 2023

Subject: **Recommendation of Yuehwern Yih for the Tompkins Professor in Industrial Engineering**

I am writing to provide my strongest endorsement for Dr. Yuehwern Yih as a candidate for the Tompkins Professor in Industrial Engineering. Dr. Yih's exceptional achievements and significant contributions to the fields of industrial engineering and make her the ideal choice for this named professorship.

Dr. Yuehwern Yih is an influential researcher in the fields of health/humanitarian systems and smart production systems. With more than 200 scholarly publications, including papers, conference proceedings, book chapters, and edited books, Dr. Yih has demonstrated a commitment to advancing knowledge in her field. Her research has resulted in one patent and two copyrights for licensing, showcasing the practical applications of her work.

One of the most remarkable aspects of Dr. Yih's career is her notable impact on humanitarian relief efforts. Her team's development of the Electronic TRANSPARENT TRACKing system (ETRA) stands as a testament to her ability to create solutions that address critical humanitarian supply chain challenges. In South Sudan, ETRA has facilitated the distribution of food from the United Nations (UN) World Food Programme to over 70,000 people each month, amounting to a total of 856,277 person-months. Additionally, ETRA currently plays a vital role in Caritas Emergency Appeal's coordination of relief distribution in Ukraine, impacting 20,000 families and approximately 60,000 people affected by the ongoing conflict. Dr. Yih drives further innovation in the global development community as the Director of LASER PULSE (Long-term Assistance and Services for Research, Partners for University-Led Solutions Engine), a large-scale program funded by USAID to create research-driven solutions for developing countries. Her work has been recognized by external reviewers as some of the most impactful contributions to global health and humanitarian efforts within the field of Industrial Engineering.

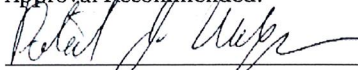
Dr. Yih's contributions have earned her prestigious recognition from numerous organizations and institutions. She has been honored as an Institute of Industrial Engineers (IISE) Fellow and an ELATE Fellow, showcasing her influence within the academic community. Her achievements also include multiple best paper awards at leading conferences, several keynote speeches, the NSF Young Investigator Award, and the Dell K. Allen Outstanding Young Manufacturing Engineer Award from the Society for Manufacturing Engineers. Here at Purdue University, her dedication has been acknowledged through awards such as the Inaugural Faculty Engagement Fellow Award, the College of Engineering's Most Impactful Faculty Inventors recognition, and the Outstanding Leadership in Globalization Award.

Beyond her research accomplishments, Dr. Yih's contributions to education and mentorship are equally commendable. She has supervised a significant number of graduate students, visiting scholars, and postdocs, guiding them toward successful careers in academia and industry. Her positive impact on her students is a testament to her commitment to fostering the next generation of scholars and professionals.

The Primary Committee voted 5 – 0 in favor of nominating Dr. Yih for named professorship. The Engineering Named Professors Committee (ENPC) voted 5 – 1 in favor of recommending Dr. Yih for named professorship. Although most comments strongly supported the recommendation, the comment associated with the “Nay” vote stated, “Seems to have a quite low level of funding, even if funding up to 2018 are visible. It would be better to see more information on fundings, to ensure she has right level of program support.” However, Dr. Yih is in fact the faculty member in the College of Engineering with the highest research expenditures in FY 23 (exceeding \$10M in research expenditures), arising from her role in the USAID LASER PULSE award.

Based on Dr. Yuehwern Yih's exceptional contributions to research, education, and global engagement in the humanitarian field, I enthusiastically endorse her nomination for the Tompkins Professorship in Industrial Engineering.

Approval Recommended:

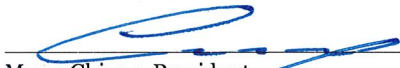


Patrick J. Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President
For Academic Affairs and Diversity

11/17/2023

Date

Approved:



Mung Chiang, President
Roscoe H George Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering

11/27/2023

Date

Cc:

Luna Lu
Brittany Vestal
Yong-Jun Son
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AR/amh