



University of California
San Francisco

Department of Cell and Tissue Biology
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To the Jury of Fellows:

I am writing to support with highest enthusiasm the elevation of Bonnie Blake-Drucker, A.I.A. to Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects. As a Professor and Vice-chair in the Department of Cell and Tissue Biology at the University of California, San Francisco, I have worked with Bonnie over the past six years on the design and remodel of my own laboratory space and on design plans for additional Departmental space and facilities on the Parnassus Heights Campus. I strongly believe Bonnie is an outstanding candidate for-Fellowship, based on her highly effective innovations with complex laboratory designs that advance the practice of architecture.

Bonnie's skills, talent, and vision in remodeling the four-laboratory complex I occupy generated what I and many other investigators at UCSF believe is the most functional, productive, and esthetically superior research space on the Parnassus Campus. The Health Sciences West and East towers with 16 floors each were built on the Parnassus Campus more than 40 years ago. Remodeling projects directed by different architects have been completed for more than 10 floors in the towers. I was fortunate that Bonnie was contracted to design the four-laboratory complex on Health Sciences West 6th floor, which includes my research program of ten scientists and the programs of three other investigators each having 5-10 scientists in their group.

After four years in our renovated space, I remain thoroughly pleased, and I continue to feel joy and delight as I enter our complex each day. Also, visits to colleagues in other remodeled complexes on the UCSF and other campuses are reminders of the superior design of our floor. Foremost in my appreciation is that Bonnie's outstanding design directly enhanced our productivity. Our complex includes an optimal mix of shared and independent space with improved usability, efficiency, and safety. With raised ceilings, highly effective use of lighting, and abundance of glass partitions, Bonnie generated an esthetically pleasing workspace with generous access to daylight that not only facilitates but actually augments interactions between scientists on the floor. The exchange of ideas, reagents and tools between scientists is critical for advancing our work and Bonnie's vision and skills have enhanced these exchanges.

Also important during the development of our new facility was Bonnie's engaging ability to listen and respond to our needs as investigative researchers and to effectively incorporate our needs within a sustainable, accessible, and safe working environment. Moreover, in recognition of her outstanding design for our laboratory complex Bonnie received a Best Overall Sustainable Design Award in 2006 from the California University Consortium, and was awarded contracts to remodel two additional floors in our Department.

From a perspective broader than research laboratories at UCSF, I strongly believe Bonnie's highly effective design innovations advance the practice of architecture. Her complex laboratory designs achieve sustainability, integration, accessibility, flexibility, and safety without compromising visual aesthetics, usability, and comfort. Bonnie's design talents, her history of contributions to the university community, and her advancement of architecture make her an outstanding candidate for Fellowship. As a client who has professionally and personally benefited from her innovative design talents, I wholeheartedly support her application.

Diane L. Barber, PhD