



MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 06, 2018

TO: Ruth V. Watkins
Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs

FROM: Kai Kuck, Chair
Distinguished Innovation and Impact Award (DIIA) Selection Committee

RE: Recommendation for the 2018 Distinguished Innovation and Impact Award

The DIIA Selection Committee of the Entrepreneurial Faculty Scholars met on March 5, 2018 to select the recipients for the 2018 Distinguished Innovation and Impact Award. Upon careful consideration and evaluation of nine highly qualified and deserving candidates, the Committee strongly recommends the following recipients for the 2018 Distinguished Innovation and Impact Award:

Nalini Nadkarni, PhD, Biology, College of Science
Jeffery P. Rosenbluth, MD, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, School of Medicine

Briefly, Dr. Nadkarni Nalini is recognized for her wide ranging innovative and highly impactful work ranging from the tops of rainforest canopies to the depths of the U.S. prison system. Throughout her work she brings creativity, energy, compassion, and intelligence, weaving together threads of seemingly distant and different worlds to create new ways of seeing, understanding, and improving our world.

Dr. Rosenbluth is working across campus to create and improve programs and systems for patients with spinal cord injury. The aim is to reintegrate patients' social roles and independence to improve quality of life, despite ongoing disability. This program is recognized nationally by most spinal cord injury treatment centers, as well as was acknowledged as a model program by Sir Philip Craven, President of the International Paralympic Committee at a speech at the American Association of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation annual assembly in 2014.

Following your approval of these recommendations, we have drafted notification letters for the recipients, and we will work to create video and written press releases about their specific innovations that have improved so many people's lives.

Upon approval, please forward the candidates of the Distinguished Innovation and Impact Award to the Academic Senate and the Board of Trustees for approval.

Thank you.

Approved:



Ruth V. Watkins
Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs

3-7-18
Date