Consideration of Appointment of Professor Lutz Jäncke of the University of Zurich as USC CoEE Chair for the Brain Imaging CoEE

Purpose

To present the case of an appointment of a part-time USC faculty member as a CoEE Chair in the Brain Imaging CoEE.

Issue

Below follows the current policy in the CoEE Program Guidelines with respect to the appointment of a part-time faculty member as a CoEE Chair at one of South Carolina’s senior research institutions:

The professor must in most cases be a new hire to the institution and emerge as a candidate through a national search. Except under very unusual circumstances, which must be documented to the Review Board’s satisfaction, the endowed professorships will be awarded to full-time faculty at the respective institutions. (Section III-A)

USC has presented a request to appoint Professor Lutz Jäncke from the University of Zurich as a CoEE Chair in the Brain Imaging CoEE. Professor Jäncke is a renowned academician in the field of neuroscience and neuroimaging, which the attached letters from President Pastides and Brain Imaging CoEE Chair Dr. Paul Simon Morgan, as well as Professor Jäncke’s attached curriculum vita, demonstrate. CHE staff understands that, if appointed, Professor Jäncke would split time between USC and the University of Zurich. From the materials submitted by USC, it appears that Professor Jäncke will contractually maintain a physical office on the USC-Columbia campus ten months of each standard academic year.

Recommendation

Should the CoEE Review Board decide to approve the appointment of Professor Jäncke as CoEE Chair of the Brain Imaging CoEE, CHE staff strongly recommends that the appointment be contingent upon the following: (a) submission to the CoEE Review Board of the intellectual property contract between the University of South Carolina and the University of Zurich as described on pages two and three of President Pastides’ February 10, 2010, letter, and (b) submission to the CoEE Review Board of a detailed description of Professor Jäncke’s expectant and contractual physical presence on the USC-Columbia campus during a standard academic year.
February 10, 2010

Dr. Gail M. Morrison
Director of Academic Affairs and Licensing
SC Commission on Higher Education
1333 Main Street, Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Dr. Morrison:

The University of South Carolina (USC) is seeking the CoEE Review Board’s endorsement of the appointment of Professor Lutz Jäncke as USC Endowed Chair for the Center of Economic Excellence (CoEE) in Brain Imaging. This appointment is a part of a precedent-setting collaboration with one of Europe’s leading research universities, the University of Zurich. University of Zurich alumni and faculty include 23 Nobel Prize laureates (Albert Einstein; Erwin Schrödinger, one of the founders of quantum mechanics; and Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, the first person to win the Nobel Prize in Physics) and Lutz Jäncke, one of the top 1% most cited researchers in both neuroscience and all scientific disciplines.

The appointment of Professor Lutz Jäncke as Endowed Chair in Neuroimaging Research and Director of the Brain Imaging CoEE in Columbia will secure USC’s position as a neuroscience innovator, a leader in global partnering, and dramatically boost South Carolina’s international reputation for brain imaging science and scientific excellence. It will also significantly expand training activities and research opportunities for students and faculty on a scale that will truly foster USC’s expertise in cognitive neuroscience, computer science, engineering, and public health. This innovative and impressive research university partnership will also accelerate the development of usable products and economic impact of brain imaging research conducted in South Carolina.

Known worldwide for his groundbreaking research in neuroscience and neuroimaging, Dr. Jäncke has held positions of scientific leadership and is regarded as an important voice in a number of European scientific associations. As presented in his more than 175 research papers that are published in highly respected journals, Dr. Jäncke’s research focuses on structural and functional brain plasticity and is characterized by
collaborations with neurologists, psychologists, psychiatrists, physicians and computer scientists. He develops innovative new ideas from neuroanatomy and cognitive psychology and then uses a battery of tools to examine his hypotheses. He holds patents and has licensed some of his inventions, which are now out in the marketplace. He is clearly able to develop basic ideas into useful tools. He is a strong grantsman and has been able to attract large grants to support his research laboratory. Currently Chair of Neuropsychology at the University of Zurich (where he directs a 25-member laboratory including graduate students to senior independent investigators), Dr. Jäncke holds numerous prestigious teaching awards and has given over 150 talks, lectures and workshops.

USC is requesting your endorsement to appoint Dr. Jäncke as the USC Endowed Professor in Neuroimaging. In this position, he will be a university and state-wide scientific leader in neuroimaging and will be a leader among the Health Sciences Endowed Chairs in South Carolina. He will facilitate work conducted within a number of Health Sciences South Carolina (HSSC) initiatives. In particular, the ongoing recruitment of scientists for the CoEES in SeniorSMART and Childhood Neurotherapeutics will be intensely invigorated by such a prestigious appointment. Dr. Jäncke’s ability to strengthen our scientific capacity in the health sciences areas cannot be overstated. He will not only attract other established researchers, he will also offer training to new scientists and consulting and collaboration opportunities for those scientists currently established on campus who are interested in developing their own brain science expertise. Dr. Jäncke will also host USC faculty and students at his Zurich research laboratory and bring his European colleagues to South Carolina.

To facilitate collaboration between the University of Zurich and USC, Dr. Jäncke will hold dual appointments as Chair of Neuropsychology at the University of Zurich and Endowed Chair in Neuroimaging at USC. He will also be director of the USC CoEE in Brain Imaging. He will be provided the start-up funding necessary to establish the research, administrative and technical staff necessary to manage the Center’s day to day operations.

In addition to continuing to perform his own research on structural and functional brain plasticity related science, Dr. Jäncke, in his capacity as the Center director, will set the Center’s vision, mission and goals. He will direct creation of a new brain imaging facility in Discovery I that will complement the McCausland Center. This new research facility will greatly expand USC’s ability to conduct neuroimaging research. USC retains a clear right to inventions developed through federal grants accepted by the University as well as
to those inventions developed in laboratories funded by the University. These intellectual property rights will be clearly detailed in the contract between USC and the University of Zurich. A clear delineation of the intellectual property issues will also be included in Dr. Jäncke’s offer letter.

Dr. Jäncke will manage a COEE team that includes two new faculty positions and current faculty:
- Amit Almor (psycholinguistics, neuroimaging of language, and language impairments)
- Julius Fridriksson (communication disorders and brain imaging)
- John Richards (EEG-ERPs, interim USC Psychology Chair)
- Jeff Schatz (childhood disorders affecting cognitive and learning abilities)
- Svetlana Shinkareva (application of quantitative methods to neuroimaging data)
- Jennifer Vendemia (deception detection funded by the Department of Defense)

Dr. Jäncke will also have responsibility for all programmatic reporting of CoEE activities. He will be assisted in this effort by the Office of the Vice President for Research and Graduate Education and the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences to ensure timely and comprehensive reporting.

Given Dr. Jäncke’s familiarity and expertise with modern communication channels such as email, Skype, texting, streaming video, i.e., tools that will allow someone to work anywhere in real time, we do not anticipate any logistical issues ensuing from this appointment. In addition, to ensure his USC responsibilities are fully accomplished, Dr. Jäncke will be hired as a tenured professor at USC on a normal academic nine-month appointment. Moreover, to ensure that a strong collaboration is built between USC and the University of Zurich, Dr. Jäncke will be allowed up to two months of leave without pay each academic year to pursue the collaborative work at the University of Zurich.

As the CoEE USC Director, Dr. Jäncke would dramatically boost South Carolina’s international reputation for Brain Imaging Science. Accelerated development of usable products and the economic impact of the brain imaging research conducted in the state would also ensue. Dr. Jäncke’s ability to strengthen our scientific capacity in the health sciences areas simply cannot be overstated. His scientific reputation will attract other established researchers to come to USC and the other research universities within the state. He is in a position to both offer mentoring and training to new scientists, and consulting and collaboration opportunities to established scientists already on campus who are interested in developing their own expertise in brain science.
This appointment will also enable Dr. Paul Morgan, the MUSC CoEE Endowed Chair in Brain Imaging (and an established innovator in the applications of Magnetic Resonance Imaging, MRI) to alternate the CoEE overall Directorship every three years with Dr. Jäncke, and to collaborate with him on research projects. These projects can be expected to further expand MUSC’s international reputation for brain imaging to accelerate the improvement of normal brain processes, and in cases of disease or injury, aid in understanding and facilitating rehabilitation and recovery.

In conclusion, we believe the appointment of Professor Lutz Jäncke as USC Endowed Chair for the CoEE in Brain Imaging meets the standard as outlined in the CoEE program guidelines section 3a. The program guidelines state “the professor must in most cases be a new hire to the institution and emerge as a candidate through a national search. Except under very unusual circumstances, which must be documented to the Review Board’s satisfaction, the endowed professorships will be awarded to full-time faculty at the respective institutions.” The credentials of Professor Lutz Jäncke speak for themselves. He is an exceptional researcher who will significantly increase South Carolina’s reputation and leadership in the knowledge economy.

Sincerely,

Harris Pastides, PhD, MPH
President
Name: Lutz Jäncke, Ph.D (Dr.rer.nat.), Prof.

Personal: Morn 16.7.1957 in Wuppertal / Germany
German citizenship
Married since October 1988 to Petra Jäncke (Neuropsychologist)
Father of 2 children (17 and 12 years old)

Education:
1984 B.S. (Psychology, Brain research).
Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf (Germany)
1989 Ph.D (Neuropsychology, Cognitive Psychology); Dr. rer. nat.,
Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf (Germany)
1995 Habilitation (Neuropsychology), conferring of the venia legendia for Psychology,
Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf (Germany)

Internships:
1983 Ministery of Health in Düsseldorf

Research Appointments:
1995 Harvard Medical School, Beth Israel Hospital, Department of Neurology and Radiology – visiting scientist

Academic Appointments:
1982-1984 Research assistant to Prof. Kalveram (Institute of General Psychology, Düsseldorf)
1984-1989 Research Fellow at the Institute of General Psychology, Düsseldorf
1989-1995 Assistant Professor University Düsseldorf
1996-1997 Senior Researcher at the Research Center Jülich, Germany
1997-2002 Chair for General Psychology at the Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg (C4-Professor)
since 2002 Chair of Neuropsychology at the University Zurich

Honors and Awards:
1984 B.S. and M.S. with honour
1989 Dissertation (summa cum laude, with honour)
1995 Habilitation, conferring of the Venia legendi in Psychology (Privat-Dozent, PD)
1996 Award for the best Habilitation at the ‘Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Fakultät’ of the Heinrich-Heine-University Duesseldorf
1996 Heisenberg Grant (personal grant for excellent science from the German Research Foundation granted for 3 years)
2006 Goldene Eule for best teaching at the ETH Zürich (lecture: Cognitive Neuroscience)
2007 Credit Swiss Best Teaching Reward (best teacher at the University Zurich, lecture: Foundations in Biopsychology: Brain and Behavior)
Grant support:

1985-1987 Co-Investigator: DFG-Grant Speech Motor Control (KA417/2)

1988 Principal Investigator: Henkel-Grant Biological mechanisms of face-to-face communication (HE-JA222)

1990-1996 Co-Investigator: DFG-Grant Speech Flow Control (KA417/3)

since 1995 Principal Investigator: DFG-Grant Speech Flow Control (KA417/3)

since 1995 Personal DFG-Grant: MRI Research in Neuropsychology (JA717/1-2. JA717/2-1)

1997-2000 Co-Investigator: DFG-project grant (SFB 194), 'Macrostructural determinants of functional plasticity'

1997-2002 Principal investigator: DFG-grant ‘Cerebral localization of motor control’ (JA717/7-1), (JA717/7-2), and (JA717/7-3)

1997-2001 Principal investigator, DFG grant: ‘Cerebral localization of auditory perception’ (JA 717/5-1), (JA 717/5-2)

2001-2003 Principal investigator, DFG grant: “Cognitive Neuroanatomy” (JA 717/8-1)

2003-2006 Principal investigator; SNF research project: “Short-term and long-term plasticity of the auditory cortex”; funded for three years with a total of Euro 400.000

2002-2005 Principal investigator; European research project: “Functional neuroanatomy of Presence; funded for three years with a total of Euro 250.000

2003-2008 Principal investigator; SNF research project: “Short-term and long-term plasticity in the human sensorimotor system”; funded for three years with a total of Euro 400.000

2005-2009 Principal investigator; European research project: “Functional neuroanatomy of Presence; funded for four years with a total of Euro 415.000

2006-2008 Principal investigator; SNF research project: “Short-term and long-term plasticity of the auditory cortex”; funded for two years with a total of CHF 415.000

2007-2009 Principal investigator; EU-COST research project: “LORETA-based Brain-Computer-Interface Training in ADHD patients”; funded for two years with a total of CHF 130.000

2007-2009 Principal investigator; private funded research project: “Neural correlates of Wanting and Liking”; funded for three years with a total of CHF 270.000, sponsor GFK Nürnberg

2006-2009 Principal investigator; SNF-NCCR research project: “Short-term and long-term plasticity of the motorsystem”; funded for four years with a total of CHF 440.000

2006-2009 Co-investigator; SNF research project: “Neural underpinnings of motor timing”; funded for 3 years with a total of CHF 300.000

2006-2009 Co-investigator; SNF research project: “Cortical activations during anticipated negative events”; funded for 3 years with a total of CHF 250.000

2006-2010 Principal investigator; EU research project: “Neural underpinnings of spatial presence”; funded for four years with a total of CHF 650.000
2007-2010

Principal investigator, private funded research project by the Gesellschaft für Konsumforchung (GFK) Nürnberg: “The neural underpinnings of Wanting and Liking”; funded for three years with a total of 250,000 Euro

Review work

Grant reviewer for various grant organizations (selection)

- Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)
- National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
- Irish Research Council
- New Zealand research Foundation
- German Israel research foundation
- Canadian Research Council (CRC)
- Swiss National Foundation (SNF)
- Wellcome Institute (London)
- Wellcome Trust (GB)
- National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
- Leverhulme Foundation (GB)
- Dutch Social Science Research Council

Review work for organizations

- Neuropsychological expert reviewer
  - official reviewer for the “Strassenverkehrsamt Zürich” (traffic office of the Canton Zurich)
  - Reviewer for health insurance companies
  - Reviewer for pension fund organisations

Editor for scientific journals

- Laterality
- NeuroReport
- Zeitschrift für Neuropsychologie (Herausgeber)
- Brain and Language
- Swiss Journal of Psychology
- Psychological Science
- European Journal of Developmental Sciences
- Frontiers in Neurosciences
Ad hoc Reviewer for scientific journals (selection)

- Acta Psychologica
- Archives of General Psychiatry
- BMC Neuroscience
- Brain and Cognition
- Brain and Language
- Brain
- Brain Research
- Cerebral Cortex
- Chemical Senses
- Cognitive Brain Research
- Cortex
- Current Anthropology
- European Journal of Neuroscience
- Experimental Brain Research
- Human Brain Mapping
- International Journal of Psychophysiology
- IEEE-Transactions (Rehabilitation and Medicine)
- Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience
- Journal of Neuroscience
- Journal of Neurophysiology
- Journal of Psychophysiology
- Journal of Speech and Language Research
- Laterality (Board member)
- Nature
- Nature Neuroscience Reviews
- Neuroimage
- Neurology
- Neuropsychologia
- Neuropsychological Rehabilitation
- Neuroreport (Section Editor)
- PNAS
- Perceptual and Motor Skills
- Psychological Research
- Psychiatry Research
- Psychiatry Research (Imaging)
- Psychophysiology
- Restorative Neurology (Board member)
- Science
- Zeitschrift für Klinische Psychologie
- Zeitschrift für Neuropsychologie (Board member)
- Zeitschrift für Psychologie

Citation analysis

- Web of Science: **4600 citations** (3.9.08)
- 175 papers
- average citations per article: 22.9
- H-Index = 37
- Essential Science Indicator (ESI) (3.10.2007) ISI:
  - **1663 citations** in “Neuroscience & Behavior” (1% of the most cited neuroscientists).
  - **2108 citations** in „all fields“ (1% of the most cited scientists).
Curriculum Vitae – Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Lutz Jäncke

Conference organization

Joined midyear meeting of the International Society of Neuropsychology together with the German and Swiss Neuropsychology Associations in July 2006 in Zurich; total of 1500 participants.

Co-organizer of the Swiss Psychology conference in Zurich in September 2007

Experience in organization and management tasks

Director of the Institute of Psychology at the Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg from 1998-2002

Member of the Science committee of the University Zurich

Reference persons

Prof. Dr. Ken Hugdahl
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CI-NAPS - GINLANG Team
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14074 Caen Cedex FRANCE
Tel 33 2 31 47 02 68
Fax 33 2 31 47 0 2 22
mail: tzourio@cyceron.fr

Prof. Dr. Gottfried Schlaug
Professor of Neurology
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and
Harvard Medical School
Chief, Division of Cerebrovascular Disease
Director of Neuroimaging and Stroke Recovery Laboratories
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1401 Marie Mount Hall
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Cognitive Neuroscience of Language Laboratory -- MEG Laboratory
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College Park, MD 20742
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Important publications


Peer reviewed papers

controlled trial investigating the effect of music on the virtual reality laparoscopic learning performance of novice surgeons. Surg Endosc. (epub ahead)


Curriculum Vitae – Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Lutz Jäncke


Book chapters


Curriculum Vitae – Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Lutz Jäncke


Books


Miscellaneous:

- 5 Articles under Review (all in international peer reviewed journals)
- 10 Articles in press (all in international peer reviewed journals)
- more than 400 Short Communications, Abstracts, Comments, or Case Reports
- more than 200 contributions to international Conferences (60 invited).
Curriculum Vitae – Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Lutz Jäncke

- more than 150 invitations for talks, lectures, and workshops

Prof. Dr. Lutz Jäncke
Zürich, 3.9.2008
December 23, 2008

To whom it may concern;

Letter of reference for Lutz Jäncke

I know prof. Lutz Jäncke since the beginning of 1990, both professionally and personally. We have collaborated on several research projects and have several publications together. Lutz Jäncke has made substantial contributions to a broad range of topics in cognitive neuroscience and brain imaging, e.g., hemispheric asymmetry and the functional significance of the planum temporale area, executive function and attention, speech perception and music processing, and more lately brain plasticity and rehabilitation, to mention some areas of research. A remarkable fact is that his publications are of very high quality in all of these areas, and that he never compromises with methodological rigor and theoretical innovativeness.

Of particular interest for the current position is perhaps his skills and experience with neuroimaging techniques and methods. Lutz Jäncke is one of the pioneers in Europe when it comes to the use of neuroimaging techniques, like MRI. What should be mentioned in this respect is that Jäncke is one of the few researchers in this field who equally well understand and is familiar with both structural and functional imaging. Together with Helmuth Steinmetz, Lutz Jäncke laid out the functional anatomy of the planum temporale area in the posterior temporal lobe in a series of truly remarkable studies in the late 1980ies and early 1990ies, developing a new state-of-the art morphometry technique for quantification of grey matter area. His knowledge and understanding of brain anatomy came therefore handy when he later turned to functional neuroimaging studies, using fMRI, a knowledge which in my view is necessary for future developments of functional imaging studies, focusing more on network connectivity than area “blobbology”, where morphology and DTI measures will be merged with functional measures to reveal the neuronal underpinnings of complex cognitive behaviour. Lutz Jäncke knows all the MRI-related techniques and methods, from BOLD fMRI, to DTI, MR spectroscopy and the recent morphometry methods.

I consider Lutz Jäncke to be one of the 4-5 top neuroimagers in Europe, which a quick look at his CV and publication list would confirm. Only his research on the planum temporale area and its role in speech and music perception would qualify for such a position, with very high citations figures. I am not familiar with his teaching skills, but I know that he has set up and successfully large research groups at the University of Magdeburg in Germany and University of Zürich in Switzerland where he has also attracted large external grants. I am sure that he would be a successful Director at your Center.
Bergen, Norway,

Kenneth Hugdahl, Ph.D
Professor and Head of the Cognitive Neuroscience group
University of Bergen, Norway
13 January 2009

To : Professor John E. Richards

It is my great pleasure to write a letter in support of Dr. Lutz Jäncke for his application for a chair in Neuroimaging Research at the University of South Carolina.

For the past 5 years, I have been coordinator of a Functional Imaging Research Department (Département des Groupes d’Imagerie Neurofonctionnelle, DGIN) funded by the National Centre for Scientific Research and the Atomic Energy Commission. I am also the leader of a team working on the anatomical and functional imaging of language since 1990.

Having a look at his scientific track record I find impressive figures. His bibliometric measures (according to the ISI Thompson) are impressive. He is ranked as being one of the most cited neuroscience researchers worldwide (Essential Science Indicators, 1% of the most often cited researchers both for the neurosciences and for the general science field). His h-index is impressively large with an h = 37. He is a very brilliant lecturer and,
as very numerous cognitive neuroscience laboratories, we invited him several times in France to give conferences (Dr Jäncke was invited more than 150 times to give lectures)...

After a PhD in Neuropsychology obtained at the University of Düsseldorf, Dr Jäncke was hired as a research assistant in this university, and became in 1989 Assistant professor. In 1997 he was named Professor for a Chair for General Psychology in Magdeburg and directed the Institute of Psychology at the Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg form 1998 to 2002. He moved in 2002 to the University of Zürich, he occupies the Chair of Neuropsychology. Since then Dr. Jäncke is the head of a lab with a total of 25 persons including 1 secretary, 3 associate professors, 6 Assistants, 6 clinical neuropsychologists, and 9 doctoral students). I visited Dr. Jäncke's laboratory and I was able to appreciate his great qualities as a manager. He is a very strong driving force in terms of scientific guidance and his personality favors a very high level of scientific work that benefits from the excellent human relationships in his laboratory. One of the dynamism of the scientific life of this laboratory is very likely related to the fund raising that Dr Jäncke obtained: for example he obtained 5.5 Million Swiss francs of grant money in the 6 years he was in Switzerland.

Concerning his work as an expert, Dr. Jäncke is reviewer for many scientific and non-scientific organizations including German (DFG), Swiss (SNF), US (NIMH), Britain (Wellcome Institute), French (CNRS), Israel and many national grant organizations. In addition, he is also working as a reviewer for insurance companies and governments (Swiss and Germany). He is also reviewing intensively for all neuroscientific journals. Note that he is acting as board member of Restorative Neurology.

He is also an excellent teacher. He designed and organized a new master program called Cognitive Neuroscience" and "Neuropsychology" with several lectures, seminars, and internships. He is doing approximately 6-8 hours teaching per week and most of his assistants are also giving lectures and seminars. In addition, he has designed a new post-gradual study program for medical doctors, psychologists or other scientist called "Master in Advanced Studies in Neuropsychology" with a work load of 60 Credit points for the students. The quality of his investment in teaching was granted by prestigious teaching
awards. The most prestigious was in 2007 the Credit Swiss Teaching award for the best teacher at the University Zurich. In 2006 and 2008 he also received teaching awards from the faculty of sciences at the ETH Zurich for best teaching.

It is with great enthusiasm that I provide this letter of unconditional reference for Pr. Lutz Jäncke. Pr. Jäncke is an established expert in human brain mapping and cognitive neuroscience who has revealed numerous groundbreaking discoveries during the last decade. His unique and impressive history of research success and original scientific contributions in the field of neuroscience are of vital interest to the scientific community and to the general public.

Finally, I know him from several personal contacts at conferences and at several colloquia. He always was friendly and demonstrated great enthusiasm for his research field. Notably, he is a very generous colleague, available to provide his knowledge, advices and his help. This is extremely precious and I am personally deeply grateful to him for his advices that were very inspiring and improved the development of my personal scientific path. This demonstrates his ability to develop a network of professional relationship of high quality.

Thus, it is with great enthusiasm that I provide this letter of reference for Dr. Jäncke that appear to have the scientific, teaching and managing highest qualities that makes him a ideal candidate for the center of excellence that the University of South Carolina wants to develop.

Yours truly,

[Signature]
January 20, 2009

To
John E. Richards
Carolina Distinguished Professor, Interim Dept Chair
Department of Psychology
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC  29208

Re: Prof. Lutz Jäncke

Dear Dr. Richards,

This letter provides my strongest personal and professional endorsement of Prof. Lutz Jäncke for the COEE Endowed Chair in Neuroimaging at the University of South Carolina. I have known Lutz Jäncke since the early 90s when I was in need of a collaborator from the Psychology Department at the University of Duesseldorf in Germany where we both were at that time. Lutz had already collaborated with a colleague of mine, Dr. Helmuth Steinmetz, on morphometric studies of the human brain. This work with Helmuth Steinmetz on in-vivo morphometry of brain markers of laterality and hemispheric connectivity and their behavioral correlations was some of the first to relate detailed morphometry of the living human brain with behavioral measures. I was very fortunate to attract Lutz’s interest in working with me on a related area using musicians as an model to study neural correlates of intense and long-term skill acquisition as well as a model to investigate neural correlates of unique abilities (e.g., absolute pitch). Over the last years and certainly since Lutz Jäncke has moved to the University of Zürich, he has developed an independent research interest in the brain areas and functions that deal with musicianship. He has even developed this research further and examines other variants of exceptional abilities and exceptional subjects to delineate the neural and cognitive underpinnings of exceptional abilities. Within this field, he has published a several highly respected papers which are of great importance for brain imaging and the cognitive neurosciences.

His work is characterized by innovative new ideas derived from neuroanatomy and cognitive psychology and then using a battery of tools including modern brain imaging methods (structural and functional MRI, modern EEG techniques and recently also transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) and transcranial direct current (tDCS) examine his hypotheses. He elegantly combines all available methods and adapts them to examine his hypotheses.
His publishing record is quite impressive (according to the ISI Thompson). He is ranked as being one of the most cited neuroscience researchers worldwide (Essential Science Indicators, 1% of the most often cited researchers both for the neurosciences and for the general science field). His h-index is 37 which is quite impressive.

His achievements over the last years have been exceptional. He is currently directing a lab that has roughly 25 members ranging from graduate students to senior independent investigators. He has been able to attract large grants to support his various research projects and last but not least he has become an important voice in various scientific organizations in Europe including the German and Swiss National grant organizations. In addition, he is reviewer for most of the neuroscience journals and sits on editorial boards.

His teaching accomplishments are also quite exceptional. I have had regularly students of his in my lab who come with an exceptional neuroscience background and speak very highly of his lectures and seminars. He is the recipient of several prestigious teaching awards at the University of Zürich. Furthermore, he has implemented a new master program in Cognitive Neuroscience/Neuropsychology and a new postgraduate program for medical doctors, psychologists and other health scientists called “Master in Advanced Studies in Neuropsychology.

In summary, I have been very fortunate to have known Lutz for many years and collaborated with him over the last decade. He is truly exceptional in his scientific abilities, but he is also a highly trusted colleague who treats his colleagues and collaborators with respect and exhibits an exceptional level of integrity and honesty in his collaborations with other investigators and labs. Thus, it is with great enthusiasm and without any reservations that I provide this letter of reference for Professor Lutz Jäncke.

Sincerely,

Gottfried Schlaug, MD, PhD
Re: In support of Lutz Jäncke for the USC CoEE Chair in Brain Imaging.

Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Lutz Jäncke is an outstanding world class researcher from Zürich, from where he has successfully applied a number of advanced methods to examine the living human brain in order to uncover relationships between its structure and function. This has resulted in a long record of high impact publications, funding, and international media interest, as this cuts to fundamental issues such as how we learn when healthy, and equally, how the brain attempts to learn or adapt as it declines with age or disease. The techniques he uses, both Magnetic Resonance Imaging and EEG, are focus areas at the main universities in South Carolina, and are central to the mission of the Brain Imaging CoEE. His recruitment would be a great success for human brain research in South Carolina, enabling the State to leap further forward in this field.

In addition, his research should have direct local impact in South Carolina. Brain studies to better understand learning have direct application to companies aiming to provide individual, personalized learning programs. Equally relevant is the impact on selecting the best individual learning program for patients for recovery from, or adaptation to, conditions such as stroke, resulting in a larger proportion of this population being able to return to be useful members of the workforce.

Dr Jäncke would be a significant addition to the Centers of Economic Excellence. Appointment to the USC CoEE Chair in Brain Imaging would help ensure the status and resources for him to realize these benefits for South Carolina, as well as bringing international experience, skills, enthusiasm, and wisdom to all involved with the growing partnerships within the CoEE network.

Yours faithfully

Paul S Morgan, PhD

SC CoEE Endowed Chair in Imaging Science
Associate Professor in Radiology
Director, Center for Advanced Imaging Research