



Boston University School of Medicine



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DOM Awards Committee

Re: Nomination letter for Katya Ravid PhD for the Robert Dawson Evans Faculty Recognition Teaching Award

Dear Committee Members,

It gives me great pleasure to nominate Katya Ravid, PhD as a recipient for the Robert Dawson Evans Faculty Recognition Teaching Award. I have known Katya for many years however it has only been in the last year, since my appointment as Director of the Molecular and Translational Medicine Graduate Program that I have become fully aware of what Katya means to the overall success of the graduate programs at Boston University School of Medicine. In the short time that I have been involved in guiding the MTMGP, I have come to really appreciate the commitment and understanding that Katya has for graduate students and what is required for the design and implementation of outstanding graduate curricula and training.

Dr. Ravid has been teaching at the medical school for nearly two decades, in courses such as Biochemistry GMS (755/555), Medical Biochemistry MED MS 127A1/GMS BI 751 (*Medical Students*), Biochemistry and Cell Biology (MS 127 to Master Students; AND BI751 to *Medical Students*), and more recently in Foundations in Biomedical Sciences (FIBS); Mechanisms of Cell Communication (FC704). In recognition of her outstanding teaching methods and for her creativity as an educator, Katya has been nominated several times for the university wide Metcalf award for teaching.

Katya's contributions to the teaching mission of the Department of Medicine and to the school at large are numerous and outstanding. Recognizing that successful biomedical research and education increasingly relies on development of multi-faceted approaches and concepts, she developed two new interdisciplinary graduate courses, and with that has shined light on DOM as leader in innovative education. The course, *Nanomedicine: Principles and Applications* was envisioned by Katya, and developed in close collaboration between the Medical campus and Engineering campus faculty and students at Boston University. The course was developed with the belief that biomedical and physical science majors can benefit most from an integrative approach, which indeed has proven to be the case with this course. Katya has co-directed this course along with Dr. Mario Cabodi for the past 3 years, with excellent feedback from both students and faculty. Similar conceptual approaches have been applied by Katya to the graduate course she developed on the medical campus, titled: *Biological Core Technologies (GMS MM730)*. This course covers an array of principles (including Optics, Mathematics, and Molecular biology) that govern the application of different technologies used

in biomedical research. With Dr. Lou Gerstenfeld as course co-director, the course has been highly appreciated and recognized by students and the Division of Graduate Medical Sciences. The importance of this course as a foundation in PhD training is fully exemplified by its designation as a required course for all MTMGP students. Thus, Katya has taken the lead in promoting the idea that exploration of biological mechanisms and their relevance to disease requires knowledge and collaboration of multiple disciplines. Despite the time and energy required to initiate these new courses, Katya has continued to teach her course Gene Targeting in Transgenic Mice. This course has instructed nearly a generation of students on the art of gene engineering and its value in biomedical research.

Dr. Ravid's interest in course development is driven by her keen concern for student training, and in appreciation of the value of teaching excellence. She is the Principal Investigator of an NIH-funded training grant in Cardiovascular Biology, and the Director of Mentoring of a new university-wide NCI-funded training grant in Nanomedicine (<http://nano-cancer.bu.edu/>; <http://nano-cancer.bu.edu/education/mentoring>). Katya has established a great reputation as mentor and teacher to a long list of trainees. She is devoted to fostering in the students a strong scientific knowledge and reasoning, with emphasis on understanding the process of discovery. With this type of teaching and mentoring, students believe in their ability to contribute.

The Robert Dawson Evans Faculty Special Recognition Teaching Award is designed to acknowledge the value of exemplary skills, leadership, creativity, mentoring and other intangible aspects of the work needed to accomplish the teaching mission of the Department of Medicine. I can think of no person who better satisfies these criteria than Katya Ravid, and I would like to nominate her with the highest level of enthusiasm and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William Cruikshank". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" and last name "Cruikshank" clearly distinguishable.

William Cruikshank, PhD