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January 25, 2017

To whom it may concern

It is with great pleasure that I nominate **Dr. Richard C. Schmidt** from the College of the Holy Cross for the *International Society of Motor Control* **2017 Bernstein Prize**. Richard is an inspiring scholar and teacher, a fantastic collaborator, and a warm, honest and dependable person. His expertise in ecological psychology, human movement science, and dynamical systems theory makes him a unique and extremely well known and respected figure within the motor control sciences. He has authored over 85 research articles (all in high impact journals; e.g., *Journal of Motor Control*, *Psychological Science*, *Journal of Experimental Psychology*) and book chapters, and has presented or co-presented over 150 conference papers and posters. His work has been cited over 3500 times and he has an h-index of 34, which is impressive in any discipline, but exceptional for an experimental psychologist and human movement scientist. He has been a PI or Co-PI on three NSF awards and two NIH awards, as well as a range of grants funded by private organizations and European grant agencies, and over the course of his academic career has been awarded over $6,000,000 in research funding.

The majority of Richard's research is focused on understanding the dynamics of social motor control and coordination. More specifically, Richard has investigated how the patterning and stability of coordinated social activity emerges from the physical and informational processes that constrain environmentally embedded agents, and the degree to which these processes and the dynamics of social motor control support social-cognitive functioning, linguistic and non-linguistic communication, and social connectedness.

To say that Richard is a leading figure within the field of social motor control would be a gross understatement. Richard is, without question, the preeminent researcher within this field of study and has been the leading researcher within this field of study for more than two decades. From his foundational work on the dynamics of interpersonal rhythmic coordination (*Schmidt, Carello, & Turvey, 1990; Schmidt et al., 1997, 1998)*, to his recent work investigating the breakdown of social motor control in individuals with autism and schizophrenia (e.g., *Del-Monte, et al., 2013, 2014; Fitzpatrick et al., 2013, 2016)*, Richard's body of research not only inspires and motivates countless researchers interested in social interaction and coordination, but has defined the fields theoretical understanding of such phenomena.

In addition to Richard's outstanding research accomplishments, he has also pioneered many of the methodological and analytic methods that researchers employ to investigate social motor control and coordination. For example, Richard has developed and validated many of the experimental methodologies used to investigate interpersonal rhythmic and postural coordination. He was also one of the first researchers to demonstrate how linear and nonlinear dynamical time-series analysis techniques, such a relative phase and cross-recurrence analysis, can be used to reliably measure the complex stabilities of social motor coordination.

In summary, Richard C. Schmidt is an outstanding researcher and scholar. He has and will continue to be a leading figure within the motor control sciences, as well as within the more general fields of cognitive science and experimental psychology.

Sincerely,

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