

APPENDIX Q

Susan Strum

Susan Strum, a native of Franklin, North Carolina, received degrees in biology (BS) and chemistry (BA) from Western Carolina University in 1987. While a student, Strum was president of the Biology Club and recipient of the Don L. Yopp Merit Award and a Sigma Xi Research Award. Strum recently served as chair of the WCU College of Arts and Sciences Advancement Council from 2015 to 2019. Strum began her career in academic research then as a biochemist conducting pharmaceutical research, earning multiple awards for excellence. She is currently head of assay development at Sapere Bio Inc. in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. She brought her industry experience and expertise to design, develop, and implement an innovative diagnostic product that measures molecular age in individuals with the purpose to improve their aging through intervention. Strum and her husband, Jay, also a WCU alumnus, have established an endowed scholarship in the WCU College of Arts and Sciences for students from the western North Carolina region who need financial assistance to achieve their educational goals. The Strums also sponsor a classroom in the new Apodaca Science Building in support of the Biology Department educational programs.