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Biocomplexity Faculty Search Committee
c/o Prof. Rob de Ruyter van Steveninck
Department of Physics
Indiana University
Swain Hall West 117
Bloomington IN, 47405-7105

Dear Professor de Ruyter van Steveninck,

This is a letter of reference for Wonpil Im, who is applying for a faculty position. I have known Dr. Im for about three years, and am familiar with his work both with Benoit Roux and with Charlie Brooks. Wonpil worked closely with me this summer on an NSF-sponsored workshop to introduce physicists and chemists to biomolecular simulations.

I will not try to recount Wonpil's scientific record here, as you can get that from his CV and from other letters of reference. I will just say that there is no doubt that he is among the finest theoretical post-docs to come through Scripps in a long time. Charlie Brooks' group and mine are contiguous to each other, and I have had a good chance to see how hard-working and innovative Wonpil is. He attacks problems with a very strong combination of physical insight, understanding of theory, and appreciation for the complexities of numerical analysis and algorithm design. His work on ion channels, on solvent boundary models and on implicit solvent calculations are already becoming very influential. Wonpil is finishing his first post-doc with 22 impressive papers and a ton of good experience. I predict great success for him in an academic setting.

I recognize that this is a pretty short letter, and you should treat comments from Profs. Roux and Brooks more carefully than mine, since they clearly know the candidate from a closer perspective than I do. Wonpil and I worked together on one paper, comparing the performance of generalized Born models developed in part by him, with some from our laboratory. This was a good experience, as was his work in both lecturing and helping students at our recent workshop. This is really a candidate you should have on your "short list" to give him a chance to show you what he knows and how he thinks.

Sincerely,

David A. Case