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Biocomplexity Faculty Search
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Groningen, 22 November 2004

Our ref: AM/jl04-124
Subject: Letter of recommendation



I am writing in support the application of Dr. Danilo Roccatano for an Assistant Professorship in Biocomplexity, Biocomplexity Institute, Indiana University. I have known Dr. Roccatano for approximately 7 years. This was initially when Dr. Roccatano was working as a postdoc for Prof. Herman Berendsen. Later when I took over as head of the Molecular Dynamics group in Groningen in 1999 Dr. Roccatano continued to work in the group for me for a further 2 years and we have remained in contact and continued to collaborate ever since.

Dr. Roccatano is a very capable scientist with a solid background in physical/computational chemistry and a good appreciation for biological systems. His research interests are broad and encompass a variety of approaches. In particular he has been responsible for the development of novel algorithms for flexible docking and more recently has been involved with simulations of peptide folding and aggregation, in particular the effects of various solvents on peptide conformation. He is very careful and thorough in his research with a very good feel for what can be achieved using available techniques. As can be seen from his published work he has been involved in a wide variety of collaborative studies to address particular biological problems and to help interpret the available experimental data. Dr. Roccatano is very active in all aspects of his research and despite currently holding an assistant position works largely independently developing and maintaining his own collaborators. Without doubt he has the ability to maintain and run his own research program.

On a personal level Dr. Roccatano has an unassuming character and is a very pleasant person with whom to work and interact. His natural tendency is to understate his ability and contributions. He is a good mentor for students and has experience teaching at both a graduate and undergraduate level.

In summary Dr. Danilo Roccatano is a bright and capable scientist for whom I have much respect. I feel he would be an ideal addition to the Biocomplexity Institute as he is collaborative by nature and well suited to working at the interface between physicists and biologists using simulation and other theoretical techniques to address specific biological problems. If for any reason you would like further information, please feel free to contact me at the address above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Mark', written in a cursive style.

Prof. dr. Alan E. Mark