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Biocomplexity Faculty Search
c/o Theresa Dawson,
Department of Physics
Indiana University
Swain West 117
727 East 3rd Street
Bloomington, IN 47405-7105

Dear Colleagues,

It is a pleasure to support the candidacy of Dr. Laura Gagliardi for a faculty position within your Department. Laura is an amazingly talented quantum theoretician who has blazed an impressive track thus far in the international community. She is an obvious target for recruitment given the nature of the Italian system (which tends not to reward innovation and creativity to the extent found in the United States, for example) and I am certain that she will prove a tremendous asset to your Department should you elect to offer her a position.

Laura's professional training includes a doctorate from Bologna, a postdoctoral stint with Nick Handy at Cambridge, and extensive collaboration during her Ph.D. and after with Bjorn Roos and his group in Lund. With respect to molecular electronic structure, and particularly the nature of molecular excited states, it is difficult to imagine a more complete regimen. Laura has always aggressively sought to learn from and collaborate with the best individuals in their fields (to include more recent collaborations with Kimihiko Hirao and Rudy Marcus, for instance) and this has led to a number of very successful projects. Collaboration is increasingly the mechanism by which modern science is advancing, and it bodes well for Laura's career that she is so good at it.

I note that her talents have recently been recognized with a particularly prestigious award, being named the 2004 Laureate of the International Academy of Quantum Molecular Science. Prior awardees (listed at <http://www.iaqms.org/IAQMS.awards.html>) have gone on to stellar careers and represent the cream of the crop with respect to quantum mechanical modeling.

The greatest strength of Laura's research is its superb level of intellectual and methodological rigor. Her present interests in inorganic systems and condensed-phase model development are at the forefront of bioinorganic chemistry and physics. As such, I believe that she would be a valuable addition to present expertise at Indiana. I note that

her level of productivity and the quality of the journals in which her publications have appeared are ample testament to the importance of timeliness of her research.

In sum, Laura Gagliardi is an outstanding candidate for your open position, and I recommend her to you in the strongest possible terms. You will be hard pressed to find a more exciting candidate.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Cramer
Distinguished McKnight University
Professor of Chemistry, Chemical Physics,
and Scientific Computation

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