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December 15, 2004

Letter of recommendation for Dr. Mingzhou (Joe) Song

To whom it may concern,

Thank you very much for the opportunity of writing a letter of recommendation for Dr. Mingzhou Song. While working as a senior scientist at Celera Genomics in Gene Myers' group, I had the pleasure of collaborating closely with Dr. Mingzhou Song over a period of four months in 2000. Dr. Song was on an extended visit from the University of Washington to help us develop a robust comparative gene finding method to predict genes in the human and mouse genomes simultaneously, using conservation of coding sequence as a main key. Although new to this field at that time, Dr. Song was able to get up to speed in a very short period and was then able to make an extremely value contribution in very little time. His main contribution was to modify our algorithm and it's implementation so that genes could be predicted in both strands simultaneously, an important feature, and he also refined many aspects of the different scoring methods in the program.

This was his first contribution to the field of bioinformatics. I am happy to note that since this time he has built up a substantial publication record in both general computer science and also in bioinformatics. Dr. Song is an excellent team player and is easy to work with. I have very positive memories of our cooperation and can highly recommend him for an assistant professorship in computer science or bioinformatics.

With best regards

(Daniel Huson)