

November 16, 2004



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

Dear Search Committee:

Re: Reference for faculty position candidate, Dr. Pavel Baranov

I understand that Dr. Pavel Baranov has already or will be submitting an application to you for a faculty position.

He has been a postdoc in our (John Atkins' and my) lab since January 1999. (This relatively long stay has been encouraged by us, and because he has been productive and has made a substantial change in scientific directions. This has also been partly driven by the fact that his wife is a graduate student here.)

He came to us with very good biochemical training in the use of cross linking reactions to map nearest neighbor bio-molecules in space and time.

Here, he quickly realized the value of genomic data and has quite independently and productively pursued the analysis of recoding events by algorithmic insights coupled with experimental tests. He thinks very mechanistically – proposing specific models to be tested.

I am very impressed with how he has now become an expert in sequence analysis and application of this information to problems of molecular mechanism.

He is very bright. He challenges. He makes you think. I believe that he is well on his way to becoming an independent investigator – he has the smarts and drive to do it. Importantly, his talents are clearly in the whole new area opened up by genomic information. His communication skills in his second language are still a little raw, but he is sophisticated with language. He is well worth listening to.

Dr. Baranov is a wonderful young scientist. I recommend him very highly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. F. Gesteland'.

Raymond F. Gesteland
Distinguished Professor, Human Genetics
and Vice President for Research, University of Utah

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