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November 22, 2004

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

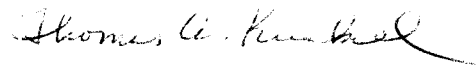
Dear Professor Rob de Ruyter van Steveninck:

It is my pleasure to write this letter on behalf of Dr. Jochen Genschel, who has applied for a Junior Faculty Position in the Department of Physics at the Indiana University. My knowledge of Jochen comes from two sources. First, I am very familiar with and impressed by the six articles he has published on studies of DNA mismatch repair performed with Paul Modrich. In my opinion, Jochen's studies are uniformly of outstanding quality. In particular, his studies of the role of EXO I and mechanisms of excision of DNA during mismatch repair represent the best biochemistry in the field on this key step in the repair pathway. Jochen's experiments, particularly the 2002 JBC paper and the 2003 and 2004 Molecular Cell papers, have revealed some novel and totally unexpected observations that have definitely had a major impact on how to think about the excision step of mismatch repair.

Second, I have had two detailed conversations with Jochen, both at Gordon Conferences where he was presenting posters on his work. Both were enjoyable interactions where he expressed himself beautifully. These conversations left me with five strong positive impressions. First, he is a true protein biochemist who thinks deeply, mechanistically and quantitatively. Second, he knows the literature very well indeed. For example, he is one of the few people I have ever talked to who appears to know the published work from my own lab almost as well as I do. Third, he is very intense and dedicated to his work, which I think is a really important (perhaps the single most important) predictor of future success. Fourth, he was not shy about vigorously stating his ideas, yet in a very thoughtful and hypothesis-driven manner that acknowledges alternative hypotheses. Fifth, he seemed to be a very pleasant person.

Based on what I know, I believe you would be well served to give him careful consideration for a position in the Department of Physics if you wish to hire an outstanding and talented protein biochemist, a rare commodity in this age of molecular biology.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas A. Kunkel".

Thomas A. Kunkel, Ph.D.
Chief, Laboratory of Structural Biology
Director, Environmental Biology Program