

SAN DIEGO

November 17, 2004

BRUSSELS

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

LAUSANNE

Dear Search Committee:

LONDON

I am writing to provide a letter of recommendation for Dr. Jochen Genschel, who is applying for a Junior Faculty Position with the Biocomplexity Institute. Jochen is a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Paul Modrich. I should point out that Paul is an old friend but that our labs are, I suppose, what I would call friendly competitors. I know Jochen reasonably well having met him at several scientific meetings as well as having met with him extensively on several occasions while visiting Duke University Medical Center. I have also corresponded with him and provided him with reagents for his work. Possibly most importantly, I have been a reviewer of the papers he has submitted while working in the Modrich lab. Thus, I believe I can provide useful comments about him

MELBOURNE

My overall impression of Jochen is that he is intensely interested in science. Conversations with him are highly focused on work. He expresses himself clearly. He is open-minded about different ideas and interpretations. Importantly, he appears to have a healthy skepticism about different mechanistic views of mismatch repair, even those originating from his own lab. He is also not easily intimidated. Overall, he is a likable person with whom you can have a productive scientific conversation. Based on these types of interactions, I think he would be a good academic colleague.

SÃO PAULO

From a strictly scientific point of view, I continue to be impressed with the work he has done in the Modrich lab. And note that I have examined and critiqued it very carefully. His work on the reconstitution of the excision steps of human mismatch repair including the development of novel assays and mechanistic studies of Exo1, MutS alpha, MutL alpha RPA, PCNA and RFC and how they all interact to promote excision is of very high quality. The results he has obtained are important and have yielded novel mechanistic insights about human mismatch repair mechanisms. It is my view that this work is the best work that is currently being done in the Modrich lab and is among the top work being done in the field at large at this time. The obvious result of these efforts has been a series of high quality papers often published in high

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profile journals. I should further point out that as productive as Jochen has been with this problem, there is much more he can accomplish with it so it is a problem with a future. My sense from talking with Paul as well as other members of his lab is that Jochen is the driving force behind this work and that he functions highly independently. I know that Paul thinks quite highly of him.

In conclusion, I think that Jochen Genschel is one of the very best people at the postdoctoral level who has surfaced in the mismatch repair field in quite some time. He has been very productive and I think the work he has done thus far is highly significant and is an important contribution to our understanding of mismatch repair. The research area itself has a long-term future and has a significant human disease related aspect. Based on these considerations, I think Jochen Genschel would be an outstanding recruit to your department as a faculty member and I enthusiastically recommend him for this position. If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,



Richard Kolodner