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RESEARCH LABORATORY
RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27711

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OFFICE OF
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

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 Prof. Rob de Ruyter van Steveninck:

This is a letter of recommendation for Dr. Jochen Genschel for the position that you have open. I have known Jochen for 3 years, having met him at a Genetic Toxicology Gordon Conference. He is at Duke, and we have remained in close contact ever since.

Jochen is an extremely talented scientist who has great technical skills and dedication to laboratory research. He is one of the most knowledgeable people in the world on mismatch repair, both in *E. coli* as well as in humans. His research during the past few years in Paul Modrich's laboratory has been highly productive, despite the extreme technical difficulties of the work.

Jochen is, essentially, a biochemist, and he has used his considerable skills in this area to tackle the complicated problems of isolation, purification, and functional reconstitution of mismatch repair processes *in vitro*. This has required him to learn a wide range of techniques and methods and to apply them to novel situations. Despite the considerable effort involved, he has remained dedicated to understanding the mechanisms of mismatch repair—especially in humans, and he has succeeded in resolving some of the critical steps in this process. He has always focused on understanding the mechanisms of mismatch repair in all its detail, with the goal of eventually using this knowledge for some practical purposes, such as drug development.


Jochen is a good writer, although German is his first language. You will notice that he is the first author on half of his published papers, and he contributed substantially to the writing of some of the other papers as well. He is an excellent speaker. A few months ago, he presented his most recent work to our group at the US EPA, and I was impressed by his organizational and communication skills. He gave an outstanding lecture that stimulated much discussion and that was understood by those outside the field of mismatch repair.

I recognize how competitive positions are these days. However, I can strongly recommend Jochen for such a position, knowing that he is a highly intelligent, hard-working, and dedicated scientist with considerable technical and communication skills. You will notice that he graduated either summa or magna cum laude from the University of Hannover in Germany. I do not know how much, if any, teaching is associated with the position, but Jochen certainly would do a good job as a teacher and a mentor. He has been a senior postdoctoral fellow in Paul Modrich's lab for several years, and he has trained and overseen the research of many students and visiting scientists. If he has one deficiency, it is a lack of formal teaching experience. Nonetheless, his skill in organizing material and presenting it clearly will serve him well in the teaching arena.

Jochen also has a long-standing and deep interest in DNA repair in general and in mismatch repair in particular. He will not be abandoning this field, and he has lots of ideas and goals that he would like to accomplish in the coming years. Thus, he would work to establish a productive research laboratory dedicated to understanding the details of mismatch repair in humans as well as other experimental systems as needed. I suspect that he also would consider collaborating with clinical researchers where appropriate, thus extending his research beyond his current focus.

On the personal side, I have found him to be a considerate, thoughtful, and kind person, with a good sense of humor. He would make a pleasant and collegial addition to the department. In conclusion, I highly recommend Jochen Genschel for the position, and I know that he would do an outstanding job. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



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