



STANFORD GENOME TECHNOLOGY CENTER

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY
Biocomplexity Faculty Search Committee
C/o Professor Rob de Ruyter van Steveninck
Department of Physics
Indiana University
Swain Hall West 117
Bloomington, IN 47405-7105

November 16, 2004

Dear Search Committee:

It is with pleasure that I write this recommendation letter for Dr. Zhenglong Gu. Zhenglong has been at the Stanford Genome Technology Center for nearly one year. We worked together before in collaboration while he was a graduate student at The University of Chicago. Zhenglong is very enthusiastic, motivated, hard working, independent, focused, and intelligent. He was exceptionally productive in Dr. Wen-Hsiung Li's laboratory and successfully made a transition to more independence at the Genome Center. He has continued his success here and just submitted his first paper on a project he initiated after joining our laboratory to PNAS. This is exceptionally fast compared to other postdocs in my laboratory. Although Zhenglong hasn't been a postdoc in my laboratory for a long time, he is ready to be an independent investigator.

One of Zhenglong's strengths lies in collaboration. He took the initiative to first contact us in 2002 when he was in Dr. Li's laboratory to start a collaboration on studying the fitness effect of duplicated genes. This collaboration was very successful. More recently he has successfully completed collaborations with Dr. Kevin White, Dr. Dmitry Petrov, and Dr. Lars Steinmetz.

One of Zhenglong's strongest attributes is his enthusiasm. He is able to carry a project from the beginning to the end, with little guidance. Although his training is strongest in computational analysis, he has taken initiatives to learn how to do wet-lab experiments himself. He has had some training at this during the time he has been at the Center and is doing well. He is also currently participating in our Center Grant renewal, which gives him experience in grant writing.

His knowledge of molecular evolution is impressive and having him here has helped other projects at the Center. I think he will do well as an independent investigator. He has the ability to create independent ideas and to follow through with them. He is selective in the projects he picks and clever in carrying them out. He will be an asset to any program he applies to.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ronald W. Davis".

Ronald W. Davis, Ph.D.
Professor of Biochemistry and Genetics
Director, Stanford Genome Technology Center