



COLLEGE OF  
ARTS AND SCIENCES

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

December 20, 2004

Dear Professor de Ruyter van Steveninck:

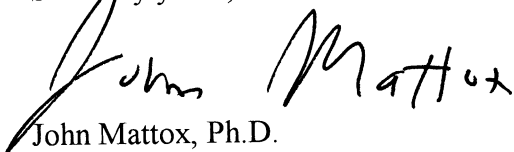
I am writing this letter in support of Dr. Alex Umantsev's application for a faculty position in your Department. I worked with him since I joined the faculty of our department at Fayetteville State University in August 2003.

Alex has been a productive and respected faculty member here; he has shown himself to be consistently enthusiastic and professionally active. While Alex's area of expertise falls outside of my own professional interests (Astronomy), I am very much aware that Alex is a very capable and productive researcher. I have been particularly impressed by his ability to quickly move from his area of expertise, Solid State Physics, into a new for him area of Biophysics and start actively working on the project in neuron cell growth with another faculty member in our Department.

Alex has developed a strong network of professional and personal relationships both on and off campus. He is well known on campus, and very highly regarded. Perhaps the most significant thing that I can say about Alex is that I respect and admire him both personally and professionally. He consistently strives to promote and achieve academic and professional excellence. Our students regard him as an excellent professor who is knowledgeable, demanding, accessible, patient, and fair. Alex has made substantial contribution to bringing external research funding to Fayetteville State and is regarded as one of the most productive faculty members on campus.

I enthusiastically recommend Dr. Alex Umantsev for your position. I believe that Alex's involvement in both world-class research and his commitment to excellence and innovation in education make him an ideal candidate for your position. He will quickly bring positive recognition to your Department through his national and international research activities. If you have any questions regarding my recommendation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Mattox". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

John Mattox, Ph.D.

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