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October 28, 2004

Letter of Recommendation for Paul Miller

Paul Miller is a very talented postdoc currently working in Xiao-Jing Wang's group, who is an extremely strong candidate for a faculty position. I have interacted a lot with Paul, and I know his work well. In fact, I have learned a great deal from him and, despite the fact that he works mainly with Xiao-Jing, my own work has benefited greatly from my interactions with him. Paul is very bright, has extremely solid mathematical skills, and he is an insightful, enthusiastic and interesting person. I both like him and admire his scientific skills and approach.

Paul's research during his time at Brandeis has covered a number of areas ranging from models of short-term memory through persistent activity to models of the biochemical interactions underlying long-term memory. Thus, he is well versed in modeling within the fields of neuroscience and biochemistry, as well as having an excellent knowledge of physics and mathematics. I will let his collaborators tell you about this work in detail and, instead, I will focus on my interactions with Paul outside this work. First, Paul has been a regular participant in a Computational Neuroscience Journal Club that I run. His talks are always a highlight of this series and, week after week, his comments from the audience at other people's talks are the most insightful of anyone's in attendance. He quickly puts his finger on the important issues in the speaker's work and makes both critical and helpful comments that reveal great insight and ability. Second, I frequently turn to Paul for help on various modeling and mathematical issues that come up in my own work. He invariably makes comments that are right on the money and tells me relevant things that I don't know. I am going to miss him in this regard, as well as in other ways, when he leaves.

Paul is an extremely nice person and he has a confident but completely non-arrogant style, all of which will make him excel as a teacher and advisor of students at all levels. As I assume you can tell from my comments, I would love to have him as a colleague. I urge you to hire him, and I am confident that you will enjoy having him in your department just as much as I have.

Sincerely,

