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Dr Marco Canepari

Marco Canepari is a post-doctoral scientist and has worked with me for 5 years investigating postsynaptic mechanisms underlying the parallel fibre slow EPSP of cerebellar Purkinje neurones. He is a skilled experimenter and works to a high standard. He is focused, works hard and carefully, and has learned to use flash photolysis and CCD imaging quantitatively in his time here. This, combined with his previous experience of CCD imaging, voltage sensitive indicators and multi-electrode arrays should enable him to pursue technically demanding projects that require those skills. Last summer he updated his technical expertise with voltage sensitive indicators by working as a Summer Researcher with Larry Cohen's group at the MBL labs in Woods Hole. The Cohen group are internationally renowned for applying voltage indicators to neural networks, recently particularly to olfactory bulb and hippocampus, and Marco has learnt to use this approach in the analysis of Purkinje neurone dendritic processing and for analysis of neural circuits.

Marco is now ready to undertake independent research as a junior faculty. The first 2 years of his time here in Mill Hill were funded by a Marie Curie Fellowship, so he has experience of applying for funds. He should be able to obtain grant funding for his work. The strong point of applications he makes for funding would be the high standard of experimentation he would apply in the area he chooses to research.

I cannot comment in detail on Marco's teaching abilities because there are no lecture based courses here at Mill Hill. He has been a demonstrator for experiments with slice preparations or flash photolysis on the 'Plymouth Microelectrode' and 'Plymouth Optical Techniques' Workshops, where he has interacted well with students. I noted that he focused his teaching well on the important points that they should learn. He prepares talks and presentations very thoroughly and one can anticipate he would prepare lectures in the same way.

Marco's background is in physics and biophysics as well as neuroscience, and this brings an analytical and quantitative approach which has always benefited physiological and medical science. He should pass on a critical and quantitative approach to undergraduate and post-graduate students. I think he is a strong candidate for a tenure track/junior faculty position that requires high standards of research and teaching.

Yours sincerely

David Ogden PhD

MRC Senior Scientist

