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22 December 2004

Biocomplexity Faculty Search Committee
c/o Rob de Ruyter van Steveninck
Department of Physics
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Dear Colleagues,

I'm writing in support of Peter Uetz's application for a position in your department. Peter is a very capable scientist whom I expect will become a leader in his field.

I know Peter well from the time I spent in the lab of his postdoctoral mentor, Stan Fields. During that time (1998), the Fields lab was in the middle of constructing a genome-wide interaction map of yeast proteins using the two-hybrid method. The lab had constructed an array of cells, each expressing one of the ~6000 yeast proteins in a form suitable for the two-hybrid test, and was just beginning to test individual protein "baits" against this array of 6000 proteins.

Peter really took charge of this project and made it happen. He was the one who figured out how to execute this relatively large-scale project. Several problems (of both the trivial and significant varieties) had to be surmounted, and Peter is the one who solved them. There were many people in the lab working toward the goal of the protein interaction map, but Peter is the one who took charge of it and brought it to fruition. I'm convinced the project absent Peter would have floundered. His key role in this important project was recognized by his position as first author of the paper published in *Nature* in 2000 that reported the results. This was a significant paper, and a significant piece of work, because it was one of the first (maybe *the* first) to employ arrays of living cells for functional genomics. Peter clearly saw the importance of the work and its significance (before many other people, it must be said), jumped into it with both feet and carried it to its ultimate success. I can say with confidence that this project would not have been successful without Peter's leadership and hard work.

Peter did this all very independently. Stan Fields and his lab mostly provided just the resources; Peter did the rest on his own (with help from others, of course, but with his clear guidance). And, he took charge of the entire project, from producing the array to maintaining it, to doing the actual experiments, to managing the data acquisition and storage (a formidable task), to interpreting the results. Based on my observation of him and his track record, I have no doubt that Peter will be successful in running his own research program.

Sincerely,



Mark Johnston

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