

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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January 12, 2005

Biocomplexity Faculty Search
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To whom it may concern:

This letter is written in support of my former postdoctoral student, Eliezer Hershkovits, who has applied for a tenure-track position in your department.

I have had the great fortune of knowing Eli since 1994, when I spent a postdoctoral year in Eli Pollak's group at the Weizmann Institute. As a student, Eli showed great promise both in his intellectual curiosity and in his analytical abilities. His elegant work on many-dimensional stochastic dynamics with a particular focus on surface diffusion clearly lived up to his promise. He followed up on this work with a postdoctoral year in Grenoble where he made significant progress identifying the important structures determining rates in the chaotic regime. When the funding sources in France dried up, I was delighted to snatch him up to work in my group.

What I haven't mentioned in describing Eli's work prior to joining my group is that he wrote a single-authored paper in which he developed a fast numerical integrator for stationary stochastic dynamics. This integrator has already shown to be amenable to some of our nonstationary representations of stochastic dynamics and led to our paper in the Bill Miller issue of *J. Phys. Chem.* [**115**, 1575 (2001)]. In a related line of work, Eli figured out a way to apply these methods to understand the dynamics of liquid crystals in which the heterogeneity of the environments may be playing an important role. [*J. Chem. Phys. Chem.* [**122**, 014509 (2005)]].

In summary, Eli's past and present work clearly shows that he has the strong mathematical and computational ability requisite to analyze physical phenomenon both by developing new theory and by subsequently solving it, thereby yielding predictive results. I leave it to the other letter writes to comment on the details of his current work as a research scientist at Georgia Tech. However, my impression is that Eli has made remarkable advances in the area of bioinformatics concerned with RNA structure and function. Meanwhile, he has also shown that he is a caring and attentive lecturer. I therefore expect even greater things from him in the future, and your institution will clearly benefit by having him be a part of it.

Best regards,

Dr. Rigoberto Hernandez
Goizueta Foundation Junior Professor
Associate Professor of Chemistry