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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

Dear Prof. de Ruyter van Steveninck:

Dr. Necmettin Yildirim has asked me to write you on his behalf in support of his application for a faculty position. I do so with great pleasure.

Necmettin is a Turkish mathematician who has worked in the past on aspects of chemical kinetics, and especially on automating MatLab routines to deal with chemical reaction schemes. He contacted me "out of the blue" in 2000, asking if he could do a postdoc with me, and since I knew nothing of him, his university, and his supervisor replied that he was welcome to come but only if he got together some money on his own. This he did, obtaining money from NATO and from the equivalent of the Turkish NSF. I was sufficiently impressed with this level of initiative and drawing power that I supplemented his funding from these two sources between 2001 and 2003 when he left Montreal for North Carolina.

Necmettin arrived in August, 2001, and we immediately decided to try to work on dynamics in the lac operon. Various aspects of this work were published in the *Biophysical Journal* (2003), and in *Comptes Rendus Biologies* (2004) and *Chaos* (2004). I felt that it was a pretty credible amount of work considering he was in my group for only about 18 months, and that he knew virtually no biology when he arrived in Montreal. Necmettin was a delight to work with, and was extremely diligent in tracking down parameter values from the biological literature, since I was determined to not just have another "mathematical model" of the lac operon, but rather one that was as biologically realistic as possible.

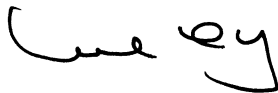
Necmettin comes with baggage—a daughter of about 6 and his wife who is a medical doctor (and apparently happy to be home with their little girl and studying English). The only fault that Necmettin has, and I would be remiss if I did not mention it, is that his spoken English was difficult (for me) to understand. This is in

no small measure due to his shyness, and the attendant soft tone of his voice, coupled with my decaying hearing. The other postdocs and students in our group seemed to communicate with him quite well.

In short, I highly recommend Necmettin to you. As one person said, "He is such a fine person.", and it is true. He is kind, and gentle and totally honest.

I would be happy to talk to you on the phone about any of these points, or others that I have failed to bring up.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mackey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Mackey" clearly distinguishable.

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