



**University at Buffalo**  
*The State University of New York*  
Buffalo Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics

November 3, 2005

Yves Brun,  
Systems Biology/Microbiology Faculty Search,  
Department of Biology,  
Indiana University,  
Jordan Hall 142, 1001 E 3rd St,  
Bloomington IN 47405-7005

Dear Prof. Brun,

This letter is on behalf of **Dr. Boris Shakhnovich** who has applied for a faculty position at the Indiana University. I know Boris both from his published work and from extensive discussions with him both at Boston University and at national meetings. I am highly impressed by both his creativity and knowledge. Typical of the best of the next generation of bioinformaticians, Boris has an extensive knowledge and understanding of both biology and computational approaches. His work is characterized by originality and incisiveness that is atypical of someone at his stage of development. The breadth of his research is truly impressive, having published work on the relationship of protein structure and function as well as mechanisms of molecular evolution. His most recent work on the identification of transcription factor binding sites and Cis-regulatory modules is innovative and potentially quite important. He has been exceptionally productive with 15 papers accepted or submitted with another three in preparation. It should also be pointed out that he completed his Ph.D. in just 3 years, that makes this record of achievement all the more impressive.

I would certainly rate Boris in the top 2-3% of scientists at a comparable stage of professional development. He is exceptionally well trained, knowledgeable and productive. Furthermore, he is scientifically very mature. Not only is he a deep thinker, and has a nose for important problems, but he can express and describe his ideas with exceptional clarity. I have every confidence that Boris will be a leader in the field of Bioinformatics as well as being an excellent teacher.

I strongly urge you to consider Boris for a faculty position in your department. He is first rate and clearly a candidate of with outstanding promise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Jeffrey Skolnick'.

Jeffrey Skolnick  
Director  
Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics