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November 15, 2005

Dear Faculty Search Committee,

I am writing this letter in support of Dr. Steven Andrews application for a faculty position. Steve is currently a joint postdoc between Prof. Adam Arkin and myself. This situation arose since Steve, entirely of his own initiative, pioneered a very interesting project that hybridizes theory and experiment into an elegantly coordinated exploration of the Min system. This system is of specific interest to me because it involves protein assembly on membrane surfaces in a geometry dependent manner. In my lab, we have experimental methodologies to produce membranes with patterned curvature, and can devise a wide range of experiments to test physical models. Steve has worked out a theory predicting behavioral features of this system and has managed to obtain and express the proteins. He is single handedly leading both the theoretical and experimental aspects of this work. Experiments are currently underway and the initial results look very promising. Steve Andrews is quite unique in the way he thoroughly integrates experiments and theory within a biophysical context.

I first became acquainted with Steve when we were both graduate students in Prof. Steve Boxer's lab at Stanford. During that time, I came to know in some detail how Steve (Andrews) thinks and was very impressed at the quantitative depth and accuracy of his thoughts. Steve was one of the people you seek out to solve problems, not just talk about them. He is generous with his time and energy, and is deeply motivated by scientific interest. I managed to convince him to write some specialized code that I ultimately used in three of my own publications. At the time, I acknowledged Steve for this contribution. In retrospect, and in comparison to what I now see others doing, Steve could have been a co-author on these papers (*Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. USA* **1998**, 95, 935-938, *J. Phys. Chem. B* **2000**, 104, 119-124, and *J. Phys. Chem. B* **2000**, 104, 11409-11415). A colleague like Steve could easily become the nucleus for hybrid experimental-theoretical collaborations within a department.

In summary, Steven Andrews is a unique scientist who has great potential to contribute substantially to the field of quantitative biology. He is understated, a generous collaborator, and would be a great addition to any department.

Sincerely,

Jay T. Groves
Assistant Professor