



Downing Street
Cambridge CB2 3DY



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Dennis Bray

Tel. 01223 333771 Fax: 01223 333786
email: db10009@cam.ac.uk
Web: www.anat.cam.ac.uk/comp-cell

Yves Brun
Systems Biology/ Microbiology Faculty Search
Dept. of Biology

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Dear Dr Brun

I am writing with reference to the application of **Dr Steven Andrews** for a faculty position. Steven was a postdoctoral fellow in my group in 2001-2003 and I have continued to collaborate with him since he moved to Berkeley. It is a pleasure to be able to recommend him without reservation as a highly promising young investigator who has successfully bridged the gap between physics and biology.

When Steven joined our group he was a card-carrying physical chemist with qualifications in such topics as the vibrational Stark effect. He enthusiastically took up the issues we worked on and soon acquired, seemingly by osmosis, an impressive grasp of the baroque complexity of real living systems. This led him to develop a computer program by which the Brownian diffusion of individual protein molecules in the cytoplasm or in a membrane could be simulated. With Steven's help we used this program to study several outstanding issues in bacterial chemotaxis and another postdoctoral fellow is now following up this work. We have also begun a new project on antigen recognition by lymphocyte B cells where once again the stochastic approach developed by Steven Andrews has been crucial. Time will tell, but I have a sense that software of this kind, based on a rigorous understanding of physical chemical principles, will play an increasingly influential part in this new area of biology.

Steven has a clear intellect and an impressive capacity to work for long periods by himself. He is highly motivated and pursues projects with determination until they come to fruition. Although quiet by nature he is both sociable and an excellent citizen who contributes a great deal to the daily running of a group: always ready to collaborate or give advice or simply help. I have had the opportunity to hear him deliver seminars and lectures in public on several occasions and have been impressed by the clarity of his presentation. He obviously puts a great deal of work into making his words accessible to an entire audience and my sense is that he will make a most conscientious and compassionate teacher.

In summary, Steven Andrews would be a valuable asset of any faculty. My recommendation is to support his appointment as strongly as you can.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dennis Bray', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.