



Washington University in St. Louis

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The Department of Molecular
Biology and Pharmacology

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Alumni Endowed Professor and Head
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November 4, 2005

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

Dear Dr. Brun,

It is a delight to give my strongest recommendation for Sujin Bao's application for a position in the Department of Biology at Indiana University. Sujin is an absolutely wonderful person and a brilliant scientist. He is outgoing, always smiling, eternally optimistic and incredibly pleasant to have around, and he speaks fluent English. I have had the pleasure of being in the lab next door to Sujin for the past four years, and I see him very often. Besides his wonderful and bright personality, Sujin is very smart and very hardworking. These qualities will make him an outstanding mentor, lab leader and colleague. He is always willing to help someone figure out an experiment or learn how to use a piece of equipment. Many people in my laboratory interact with Sujin, as labs in our department often share equipment and ideas. Sujin has also been using our tissue culture room for some of his experiments.

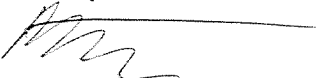
Sujin is also an outstanding and meticulous scientist. He has done spectacularly well in the Cagan laboratory, publishing a beautiful first author paper in *Developmental Cell*. This paper describes the Hibris and Roughest genes, which are orthologs of Neph1 and Neph2. Hibris and Roughest are adhesion molecules that interact with each other and are critical for the epithelial patterning of the *Drosophila* eye. Sujin posits that the mammalian orthologs of these genes are important for epithelial development in the kidney and other tissues.

Sujin is planning on pursuing mechanisms that regulate epithelial patterning. This is a complicated but very important developmental process that has significant implications in human disease. Clearly, the genes that Sujin has identified are important for kidney development and function, but the mechanisms that he will investigate will have implications in the function of other organs and in epithelial pathology and cancer. I think that Sujin is uniquely prepared to tackle these issues, beginning with genetic screens in *Drosophila* and complementing the genetics with biochemical screens for novel interacting proteins. I predict that he will eventually carry this work

forward to a mammalian system as well. Given the relevance to human disease, I am confident that Sujin will be successful in obtaining NIH funding to support his work.

In summary, Sujin is among the best and brightest postdoctoral fellows that I have encountered at Washington University. He is the type of person that I would welcome as a colleague and I am certain that he will establish himself as a leader in any academic program. I strongly encourage you to interview Sujin. I am confident that you will not be disappointed.

Sincerely,



David Ornitz

DO/ll



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Wednesday October 26, 2005

Dr. Yves Brun
Systems Biology/Microbiology Faculty Search
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I am writing to enthusiastically support Sujin Bao for a faculty position in your department. Sujin is a fifth year postdoctoral fellow conducting his research in Ross Cagan's lab. I got to know Sujin from interactions by phone and email at first, concerning his pigment cell lattice project. Later, I met him at conferences and got to know him quite well. I am impressed.

Sujin has been studying the mechanisms controlling cell shape and contact in a model epithelium: the *Drosophila* retina. He identified the role of ephrins in this process using the powerful genetics available in *Drosophila*. This work is careful, meticulous, and timely. The field of cell shape control is poised to make major advances over the next ten years. Sujin's contributions to date, and his designed projects for the future, promise to provide us with significant understanding. I foresee Sujin having a primary impact in this field as a new young investigator.

I will leave it for Ross to describe Sujin's record in his lab. I have found Sujin to be very interactive, personable, and friendly. He has the personal and language skills to successfully run a research group and interact with colleagues at all levels. Sujin is very collaborative and also thinks in innovative ways.

In conclusion, I highly recommend Sujin Bao for a faculty position in your department. He would be an excellent catch.

Sincerely,



Richard Carthew
Owen L. Coon Professor of Molecular Biology