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Department of Biology
Systems Biology/ Microbiology Faculty Search Indiana University

Dear Dr. Brun and members of the Search Committee,

I'm pleased to write in support of Dr. Insuk Lee's application for a faculty position at Indiana University. Insuk is a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of my colleague and neighbour Edward Marcotte, and he is one of the key people in the Marcotte lab that is spearheading their effort to reconstruct functional gene networks.

Insuk has an interesting background in that he is trained as a molecular biologist, but towards the end of his graduate work, he took the trouble to train himself in computational biology by obtaining a Master's degree in computer science. He is therefore conversant with both the experimental and computational worlds, which is clearly a big asset. Unfortunately I am not familiar enough with his graduate work to evaluate it, although it was carried out in Rasika Harshey's lab here at UT Austin. As a post-doctoral fellow, Insuk has been the key person in the Marcotte lab in implementing Bayesian methods to integrate microarray data with other large-scale functional data to reconstruct functional gene networks. Their paper in *Science* reporting such a gene functional network for yeast last year speaks for itself. Insuk and others in the lab are now extending this approach to reconstruct gene networks in other organisms including *C. elegans* and human.

My main mode of interaction with Insuk is during our weekly joint lab meetings with the Marcotte lab and my impressions of him are based mainly on his presentations of his research. Insuk strikes me as someone who is very methodical in his thinking and analysis. He always takes the trouble to go over the why and what about his project. He appears to be in command of the mathematical and algorithmic aspects of his analysis, and answers questions patiently and thoroughly. English is not his first language, so his presentation is not always smooth, but it is not really a problem for him to communicate his thoughts. In addition to lab meetings, I have also talked to him from time to time when he comes to me with questions about microarray data. He is

persistent in getting to the exact information he needs and is not easily satisfied with partial answers.

I cannot really address to what extent his work represents his own ideas versus those of Dr. Marcotte. But there is no doubt in my mind that Insuk is a very competent computational biologist. He is at ease navigating large and disparate data sets and applying computational methods that can reveal novel insights. I believe he can very quickly become productive with any computational biology project he undertakes. He is polite and pleasant to talk to, and I think he will make a good colleague. I urge you to give his application your most careful consideration.

Sincerely,



Vishy Iyer

Assistant Professor
Molecular Genetics and Microbiology