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Concerns: Evaluation of Dr. Peter Robin Hiesinger, applicant at the level of assistant professor, tenure-track

To whom it may concern,

as the former PhD supervisor of Dr. Peter Robin Hiesinger I have been asked for an evaluation of his scholarly accomplishments. This is in fact a pleasant task. I know Robin since his time as an undergraduate at the University of Freiburg, when he attended my lectures on neurogenetics in 1995. In 1996 he entered my laboratory as a Diplom student and stayed for his PhD thesis which he finished in 1999.

I am professor at Freiburg university since 1985. Robin is among the two most brilliant students I ever worked with. His extraordinary intelligence is paired with initiative and an autonomous mind. When I was in hospital in 1996, Robin was forced (as an undergraduate) to finish a BMBF grant application which I had just started to write. This grant "3D Reconstruction of Wild Type and Mutant Brains of *Drosophila melanogaster*" was awarded. My lab has profited from this grant application until recently, when Robin had left the lab for three years already! That Robin finished his Diploma and PhD thesis work in such a brief

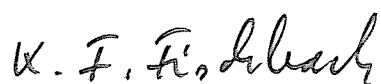
time is very remarkable, as he developed a lot of extra activities, e. g. he was co-founder of an internet company that was very successful until he left for the US. This demonstrates his excellent time management.

In his Diplom thesis as well as in his PhD thesis, Robin did very well, which is reflected in 4 papers in reviewed journals during this time. He demonstrated that misexpression of tetanus toxin light chain causes severe morphological changes at axonal terminals and proved that this was due to the cleavage of synaptobrevin, but he simultaneously could exclude the requirement for electrical activity. This showed for the first time that synaptobrevin plays an earlier, „activity“ independent role during axonal terminal formation. Robin always was a very autonomous and hard working researcher. As far as I could follow his performance as a postdoc in Hugo Bellens lab, Robin fully approved the high expectations I had.

The exceptional personality of Robin needs further comments. He is very friendly and sensitive. His ethic standards are very high and he applies these equally to himself and to his surround. In seminars he is a very active and stimulating discussant. He always got along very well with the other students in my lab.

Summarizing I have to highly recommend Robin for the position he is applying for. For me it was a pleasure to have him in the lab for a while and an honor that he had chosen me as his PhD supervisor.

Sincerely



Karl-Friedrich Fischbach

Professor for Molecular Biology and Biophysics