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December 2, 2005

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Dr. Yves Brun, Chair
Systems Biology Faculty Search
Department of Biology
Indiana University
Jordan Hall 142
1001 East 3rd Street
Bloomington IN 4705-7005

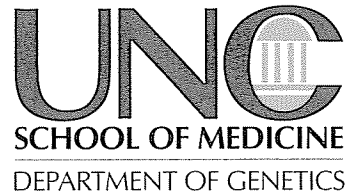
Dear Dr. Brun:

I am very pleased to provide a letter with my highest recommendation in support of the application of Dr. Elizabeth Morin-Kensicki for a position at Indiana University. I have known Beth in my capacity as Associate Chairman of the Department since 2001, when she expressed an interest in teaching and in the spring semester of 2002. We hired her to teach Biology 121, Neurobiology that year and then we hired her again in 2003. Biology 121 is a rigorous 3-credit-hour senior level course for Biology majors.

By her dedication in class, as well as her ability to find time away from the lab in order to take advantage of teaching opportunities, I know that Beth is really interested in undergraduate education. Having observed her as a lecture instructor, I can say that Beth is a gifted teacher. She connects easily with students and is adept at generating student participation; she has a good sense of when to let students work things out for themselves and when to break in with her own contributions. She was well liked by students and received excellent reviews from them. Beth also has excellent skills to deal with a heterogeneous student population, such as one finds here at UNC, where the diversity is marked both in terms of level of scholastic achievement and in terms of cultural background.

Beth is very smart and knowledgeable of the literature in Cell and Developmental Biology. She has an easy going, friendly personality; she is mature and well centered. I have no doubt that she would make an outstanding colleague, helpful and dependable. If I can help you in any other way in your selection process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Gustavo Maroni
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Dear Dr. Brun and Search Committee:

It is with great pleasure to write this letter in support of Elizabeth M. Morin-Kensicki for a position at the Indiana University. During my time at University of North Carolina, I have collaborated with Beth on her studies of YAP. In addition, I have had an opportunity to interact with Beth at group lab meetings, seminars, the Developmental Biology Journal Club, and on a routine basis due to an overlap in research interests. During the time I have known Beth I have found her to be intelligent, highly motivated, well read, and to have an exceptional interest in science. I believe Beth is an independent thinker and has promise as a beginning investigator.

Beth's graduate work in Dr. Judith S. Eisen at the University of Oregon focused on the early developmental process involved in vertebrate segmentation. Using zebrafish as a model system, Beth carried out vital dye mapping and ablation experiments demonstrating that the segmentation of the nervous system occurs through interactions with the adjacent paraxial mesoderm. Much of this work focused on the evolutionarily diverse role of the paraxial mesoderm in early vertebrate segmentation. Beth pursued her interest in the evolutionary aspects of early developmental mechanisms while studying early mouse development as a post doc in Terry Magnusons lab. During her post doc, Beth undertook an analysis of the role of the Polycomb group gene *eed* in gastrulation and early organogenesis. Using a chimeric based approach, Beth demonstrated the non cell-autonomous role of *eed* in the embryonic patterning required for the proper morphogenetic cell movements of gastrulation. This work, together with her graduate studies, has provided Beth with a very strong background in evolutionary and developmental biology.

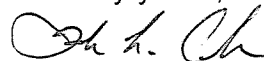
In an effort to couple a genetic and biochemical approach to early embryogenesis, Beth then took a second post doc position in Dr. Sharon Milgram's lab. It was in the Milgram lab that Beth conducted a thorough analysis of mice homozygous for mutation in YAP. This work uncovered a completely unexpected and undetected role for YAP in vasculogenesis. These studies have placed Beth in a unique position having both the genetics and biochemical reagents to carry out her future studies on YAP.

In addition to her bench work, Beth is a dynamic, highly interactive individual. She has independently established a highly successful departmental Developmental Biology Journal Club and has helped in the establishment of the Genetics Department Research Colloquium. Both of these undertakings were very vital in bringing together students, post docs, and lab heads from a variety of disciplines. The huge success of these two series are due in part to Beth's organizational skills and because Beth is a pleasure to work with and an excellent colleague. Significantly, Beth has already proved she can obtain competitive grants, recently being awarded a National American Heart Association Transition Award that she can use to help establish her lab and independent research.

In conclusion, I would recommend Beth for a position at Indiana University and feel she will make a competent lab head.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank L. Conlon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Frank L. Conlon