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Yves Brun, Systems Biology/Microbiology Faculty Search
Department of Biology, Indiana University
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Dear Dr. Brun:

My former graduate student, Dr. Min Cao, is an applicant for a faculty position in your department. Min is in all respects an exceptional scientist with first rate research skills. As a member of my laboratory, she was a coauthor on 9 papers, many in top-rated journals, on molecular genetics of stress responses in *Bacillus subtilis*. This level of productivity is unprecedented in my 15 years as a faculty member at Cornell University. More recently, she has gained research experience with *Listeria monocytogenes* working as a post-doctoral fellow with Dr. Helene Marquis. Some of her results from this work are currently in preparation and I anticipate that this will result in at least one additional paper. Min's English skills are outstanding, both orally and written. Her oral presentations have always been excellent: interesting and easy to follow. She drafted her last several papers and she is now very capable at preparing manuscripts for publication. Her last paper, on paraquat resistance in *B. subtilis*, was undertaken and developed entirely on her own initiative and was largely independent of my input.

I have tremendous confidence in Min and I think she will make an outstanding colleague. She is easily approachable and has been generous with her time and materials in helping those junior to her. She works hard and takes her responsibilities seriously. I am confident that she will be able to develop fundable proposals to support her research. She is well aware of the competitive nature of obtaining grants, and she has already begun acquiring the preliminary data to support her future applications.

Please contact me if I can provide any additional information.


John Helmann
Professor of Microbiology
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