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Yves Brun  
Systems Biology/Microbiology Faculty Search  
Department of Biology  
Indiana University  
Jordan Hall 142,  
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Dear Dr. ~~Brun~~ <sup>Yves</sup>:

This is with great pleasure that I am writing this letter of recommendation for Dr. Min Cao who has applied for a faculty position in your department. Min came to my lab nearly two years ago with a strong background in bacterial genetics and physiology. She was interested in applying her knowledge to the study of *Listeria monocytogenes* pathogenesis. She initially worked at developing a *Himar1 mariner* transposon delivery vector for *Listeria monocytogenes*. As many projects go, this turned out not to be the simple cloning task we had initially anticipated. Nevertheless, Min succeeded and this success underlined many of her qualities. She is a very determined person, she is very smart and knowledgeable, and she is very organized and efficient. Once she had this powerful tool in hand, Min decided to screen for mutants that confer bacterial resistance to oxidative and nitrosative stress. This interest of Min originated from her studies in the laboratory of John Helmann, who investigates the response of *Bacillus subtilis* to oxidative and nitrosative stress. With the help of the lab technician, Min set up a very ambitious screening project to identify *L. monocytogenes* factors that are responsible for bacterial resistance to oxidative and nitrosative stress. These factors are very likely to contribute to the virulence of *L. monocytogenes*, as the bacteria will encounter these types of stress upon phagocytosis, before escaping from vacuoles. The screen was successful, and Min is now starting to characterize the identified mutants. This is the beginning of a project with great potential for the identification of factors contributing to *L. monocytogenes* pathogenesis. This is a project Min is free to take with her.

On a personal level, Min has a very pleasant personality. She gets along with everyone in the lab. I can also testify that she is a good teacher, as she worked very intensely with the lab technician teaching him techniques and overseeing his work. She participates in lab meetings, journal clubs, and departmental work in progress. She is always very well prepared and gives clear and concise presentations. I sincerely believe she will be a very successful scientist. She is intelligent, very determined, organized, and efficient.

Sincerely yours,

Hélène Marquis  
Assistant professor

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