



C A L S T A T E
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Dr. Yves Brun
Systems Biology/Microbiology Faculty Search
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Dear Dr. Brun:

Dr. Di Jiang has asked that I write you concerning his application for your position in. development and evolution. I have had the pleasure of knowing Di for the past 4 or 5 years and have been extremely impressed by his intellectual curiosity, drive and ability to assimilate a whole field of information very rapidly.

Di is a very energetic young man who tackles big questions in biology. Just how broad these questions are is developed in his research interest statement. His background is in immunology and he has worked with ascidians (I have worked on ascidian biology for over 40 years) for only a few years yet he already has made major discoveries into their fertilization, genetics, morphogenesis and population structure. His achievements in such diverse areas speak well for what we can expect from him in the future. Di's success in such diverse areas is the result of very high intelligence coupled with a real drive to understand basic questions in biology. In my opinion Di is a rising star in the field of invertebrate biology. I am most gratified that Di has recognized the potential for research on ascidians and chosen to pursue questions into their development and evolution.

Di is a very articulate young man with a perfect command of English. I have discussed biology and worked with him frequently, especially last summer when I spent several weeks working with him at UC Santa Barbara. He speaks clearly and confidently about his research. He presented his findings to several people highly respected in ascidian research a couple of years ago at the University of Washington where it was very well received. During the summer I had the opportunity of collecting with Di, observing him interacting with other post docs and graduate students and presenting his findings at a meeting. In all these interchanges I was impressed by Di's ability to impart his enthusiasm to the group including his mentor Dr. Smith. You can be assured that Di will interact well with other members of your department.

If you have any other questions about Di or just want to discuss him or his work further, do not hesitate to email or phone me. I am very enthusiastic about Di's past and future research and would be glad to discuss it further.

Sincerely,

Charles C. Lambert
Professor Emeritus