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Systems Biology/Microbiology Faculty Search
Department of Biology
Indiana University
Bloomington IN 47405-7005

Re: Xiaofeng Liu, Ph.D.

Dear Colleagues,

Xiaofeng first began collaborations with my research group in May of 2003 when we choose to pursue studies of the biferrous active site in vertebrate "maxi-ferritins." Our group has studied a variety of binuclear non-heme iron active sites, and the ferroxidase site in maxi-ferritins is an intriguing member of this group. From the get-go, Xiaofeng has been an incredibly personable, enthusiastic, and knowledgeable scientist with which to collaborate.

Although ferritin proved to be a very difficult protein to study, Xiaofeng maintained an excellent working relationship with the graduate student on this project in my lab, and the two were able piece together a solution and create a methodology for the spectroscopic study of this protein. This strong perseverance and deductive effort has proved well worth it, and we will be publishing together a major paper on the Fe(II) interactions with the ferroxidase site in m-Ferritin. Xiaofeng has also been instrumental in directly identifying the functional ligands of the ferroxidase site in this protein and this study will nicely compliment the further electronic and geometric structure information we are learning about this active site.

Due to our wonderful experience thus far in working with Xiaofeng, I am very excited to continue our collaboration together on the Bacillus-specific paired mini-ferritins (Dps proteins) which he has already begun to characterize. Further characterization of the biferrous active site and reactivity of the Dps proteins will make a fascinating comparison to the maxi-ferritins, as well as the other binuclear non-heme iron active sites my group has studied. The project will continue to further our insight into the structure/function correlations of these active sites, yielding high impact in a variety of fields.

I am continually impressed with Xiaofeng's dedication and passion for the science we have pursued together. As he moves forward, he brings with him very solid collaborations, which will extend the impact of his research. I am confident that his proven commitment, drive, and scientific skills will continue to make him a very successful researcher in his field, and an incredibly valuable asset to your program.

Sincerely,



Edward Solomon