

FAX (979) 845-6259

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Subject: Recommendation Letter for Dr. Gabor Balazsi

9/29/2005

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter to support, in the strongest terms, for Dr. Gabor Balazsi.

First, a few words about myself. I am an interdisciplinary scientist, working in the field of nanotechnology as well as noise/fluctuations in physical, biological and technological systems. My international role in science is indicated, among other factors, by about 230 publications, over 1000 independent citations of my works, the organizing and chairing several international conferences; the editorships in related journals: Editor-in-Chief of "Fluctuation and Noise Letters" (World Scientific); Editor of "Journal of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology" (American Scientific Publishers); and establishing and currently chairing SPIE's symposium series "Fluctuations and Noise"; establishing the conference series Unsolved Problems of Noise (UPoN). In the period 1997-2001 I was the Leader of the "Research Group for Noise and Nanomaterials Research" in the Angstrom Laboratory at Uppsala University, Sweden. In August 2001, I moved to a tenured professor position at Texas A&M University, USA.

I have known Dr. Balazsi professionally for more than 10 years. He was first an exchange student for one month in my lab in Szeged, Hungary. During this period, he produced an important paper on stochastic resonance, which was based on his original idea. Since then, his work has been of the highest standard and it has repeatedly and favorably influenced my work and the work of many others.

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During his years as a graduate student, I have been cooperating with him and altogether we have co-authored 4 papers. He had the leading role in these papers and I served only as a senior advisor or project initiator. Due to his excellent performance, he became invited speaker at the second international conference on Unsolved Problems of Noise, 1999, Australia. Our findings indicate that noise can help perturbation propagation in neural systems. Moreover, there is an optimal noise intensity for which this takes place. Using noise, the brain might switch between different states, as revealed experimentally by changes in EEG recordings.

He is one of the most original scientists whom I ever met. His way of identifying scientific problems and attacking them is very effective. The area where his activity belongs is very wide, ranging from biophysics through physics to applying methods of modern statistical physics to biology. The fields of application, where he uses these sophisticated tools are very important: neural and molecular biological systems. His papers are of high quality and represent significant original contributions not only to biology, but also to the physics of complex systems.

In addition to the heavy research commitment, Dr. Balazsi is a wonderful individual. He gives freely of his own time to help junior colleagues and other scientists. He shares his ideas and always gives generous credit to his scientific collaborators and students. He is also very courteous, but is not afraid to politely point out errors, weaknesses or alternatives to interpretations or explanations of experiments. He is a very honest and caring scientist and would make an excellent colleague.

Sincerely,

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