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RE: Dr. Jiaxin Li

Dear Committee:

It is my great pleasure to write this letter to support Dr. Jiaxin Li's application for the faculty position in your department. I have known Jiaxin very well and we have frequent communications about science, life and future expectations.

In 1999, Dr. Li moved to University of Michigan Department of Human Genetics as a postdoctoral fellow when I was studying in the College of Pharmacy. The reason we got to know each other well was that we both have the interest in pharmacogenomics, bioinformatics, and multidrug resistance. During my interaction with Jiaxin, I found that he has very broad scientific background (including, biochemistry, molecular biology, microbiology, infectious diseases, genomics, bioinformatics, and computer science), rich lab experience, positive attitude, great talent, and excellent communication skills. When we were at the same school, I remember come to him to ask many scientific questions in genomics.

During our communication, I learned that Jiaxin had an excellent research in the field of drug resistance, toxicology and pharmacokinetics of infectious bacterial isolates. Due to his broad background and excellent training, in less than one year postdoc training in the field of signal transduction at University of Michigan, Jiaxin was recruited as a Staff Scientist and Director for the newly established Bioinformatics Center at Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Biomedical Center in Bar Harbor, Maine. This was not a surprise. Jiaxin obtained a Master degree of electronics and computer control systems on genomic data analysis with parallel processing and supercomputing in addition to the Ph.D. degree of biochemistry and molecular biology at Wayne State University.

After Jiaxin moved to Maine, we still keep communicating in the area of pharmacogenomics which I am also interested in. In Maine, Jiaxin was recruited as an adjunct graduate faculty member to the Ph.D. program of molecular genetics and cell biology at the University of Maine. He actively participated the

preparation and application of two multiple million dollars grants and both were fully funded. In 2001, he left Bar harbor and joined the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute as a research faculty member. In this institute, he performed lots of genomic data analysis of infectious bacteria and viruses for biodense and counter-bioterrorism projects. His computational models to simulate pharmacogenomics and pharmacokinetics of anti-HIV drugs are of special interests to me because my department is also starting the research in this direction. His future research goals include building computational models to simulate the complex dynamics and pathogenesis of host-pathogen interactions and building mathematical models for pharmacokinetics of antibacterial and antiviral drugs at systems biology level in an independent faculty position. We are currently discussing the collaborations in these pharmacokinetic studies.

As a research faculty member in the Center for Molecular Medicine and Infectious Diseases at Virginia Tech, Dr. Li is currently characterizing the molecular pathogenesis mechanisms and developing vaccines to combat *Francisella tularensis*, a CDC defined category A biowarfare agent.

One example has demonstrated his talent and sharp mind. In seven weeks research at the Environmental Protection Agency last year, he published a first author paper in the field of genomics and pharmacokinetics due to his solid knowledge and excellent experience. Pharmacokinetics with pharmacogenomic research is my area of interest for research. When he first told me about this, I thought that was a joke but it soon turned to be true when I read his paper. This one example has reflected his talent in many areas of research.

During our collaboration and discussion in these years, I have found Jiabin has very easy going personality with very positive attitude, and he is an excellent team player. He is always willing to provide help to other people who need them. I think that I am one of them who benefit from his scientific help.

I firmly believe that he will have a successful career. I strongly support his application. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me at 614-292-4381, [sun.176@osu.edu](mailto:sun.176@osu.edu). Meanwhile, I am also sending a hard copy of this letter to the instructed address.

Sincerely yours,

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