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October 18, 2005

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Recommendation for Dr. Sandra R. Schulze

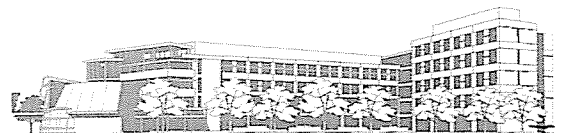
Dear Dr. Brun:

It gives me great pleasure to recommend **Sandra R. Schulze** for the position on your faculty. I first met Dr. Schulze in the fall of 2002 when she interviewed for a postdoctoral position in Department of Biochemistry at the University of Iowa. I was highly impressed with her interview seminar. I was impressed by her maturity, knowledge of the literature and the quality of her presentation. Overall her seminar was equivalent to some of the faculty candidates we have interviewed in the last several years. In short, she was one of the best postdoctoral applicants I had seen in recent years. I was delighted that she selected the laboratory of my colleague Dr. Lori Wallrath to perform her postdoctoral studies, knowing that she would make a major contribution to our local scientific community.

I have been continually impressed with Dr. Schulze since she joined our department in 2003. She attends seminars, Ph.D. thesis presentations, and a joint research meeting on chromatin, DNA replication and transcription. At these events she is highly interactive and asks thoughtful questions of the speakers. She offers advice and can apply her past experience to solving problems. She always has a unique perspective that frequently has not been considered.

Dr. Schulze is spearheading a relatively new project on nuclear lamins that is joint between my colleagues Dr. Pamela Geyer and Dr. Lori Wallrath. She has taken charge of the project and is in the process of making significant impact in the field. Dr. Schulze is a driven researcher. She spends long hours in the lab and is rapidly pushing her research project forward. In addition to her rigorous bench work, she clearly has intellectual input on experimental design and thinks deeply about her research. Her efforts have already resulted in a major publication in Genetics.

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The Medical Education and Biomedical Research Facility

Dr. Schulze is planning to continue this research when she establishes her own lab. She will take advantage of the ability to do both genetic and molecular analysis in *Drosophila* to understand the role of lamins in development. Lamins are highly conserved through evolution and this research will no doubt reveal important insights into the biology about lamin proteins and their connections with human disease.

Dr. Schulze is a very good colleague. She is personable and interacts well with both faculty and students. She is also very organized and a hard worker. Because of this she has been able to be very productive as a graduate student and as a postdoctoral fellow. I believe that this productivity will continue as she establishes her own research program. Dr. Schulze has significant teaching experience. While I have not seen her give a didactic lecture, I have been to a number of her presentations and they have all been excellent. Dr. Schulze also likes to teach. These skills coupled with her patience and organizational skill will make her an outstanding teacher.

In closing, Dr. Schulze is an outstanding young researcher with a strong record of accomplishment as a graduate student and postdoctoral fellow. She is an excellent teacher and colleague. I am confident that Dr. Schulze has the intellectual drive and the ability to be a valuable addition to your department. I recommend her to you without reservation. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about Dr. Schulze or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marc S. Wold". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Marc S. Wold, Ph.D.
Professor

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Dear Dr. Brun:

I am writing to highly recommend **Dr. Sandra R. Schulze** for a faculty position in your department. Dr. Schulze has worked as a postdoctoral fellow in my laboratory since October, 2003. I was delighted to accept her into the laboratory. She obtained her Ph.D. in the lab of Dr. Barry Honda (Simon Fraser University), who is well known for his robust genetic analyses of chromosomal regions near centromeres in *Drosophila*. Such studies are challenging given that the genes within centric heterochromatin are often large and intertwined with repetitive DNA elements. Dr. Schulze was successful on very challenging projects as a Ph.D. student. When she interviewed for the postdoc position in our department it was clear she had a strong command of the literature and was an excellent speaker.


Dr. Schulze joined my laboratory due to her strong interest in gene expression, chromatin structure, and nuclear organization. She also has strong interests in evolutionary biology. The goal of her project is to determine the role of *Drosophila* lamins in nuclear organization and gene expression, with implications for human disease mechanisms. In humans, mutations in A-type lamins cause a collection of diseases known as laminopathies. Dr. Schulze took on the project by storm and rapidly made progress. In a short period of time she demonstrated that mutations in the *lamin C* gene, encoding the *Drosophila* A-type lamin, are lethal. The analysis of *lamin C* was genetically complex due to the fact that the gene is nested in the intron of the essential gene *ttv*. She has shown that expression of mutant forms of lamin C exhibit nuclear phenotypes that are remarkably similar to those observed in human cells expressing mutant lamins. She was awarded an American Heart Association Postdoctoral fellowship to support her work on this project. Her findings were recently published in *Genetics* and highlighted as an important publication by "Faculty of 1000". Thus, *Drosophila* appears to be an excellent model for

understanding molecular defects associated with laminopathies. She will continue these studies as an independent principle investigator.

During the course of her postdoctoral research, Dr. Schulze has mentored several undergraduate students in the lab. She spends quality time with them at the bench and makes sure they understand the biological questions being addressed. The undergraduates that have worked under her direction have been highly successful and served as co-authors on publications. In addition to mentoring students in the lab, Dr. Schulze gave formal lectures on molecular biology topics and techniques to a group of undergraduate students from various summer programs. I have been extremely impressed by the quality of her lectures, her devotion to teaching, and the clarity of her presentations. I have no doubt she will be an outstanding research mentor and classroom lecturer.

In summary, I strongly encourage you to invite Dr. Schulze for an interview. She is among the top 2% of the postdoctoral fellows I have met since joining the University of Iowa eight years ago. You will find that she has astonishing enthusiasm for science and a strong desire to succeed in educating those around her. I am confident that her research on lamins will be of broad interest to the research community. She has the intellectual drive, passion for research, mastery of laboratory skills, and the mentorship qualities to be a highly successful member of your department.

Sincerely,



Lori L. Wallrath
Associate Professor of Biochemistry
lori-wallrath@uiowa.edu