

Multi-disciplinary Centre for Integrative Biology,  
School of Biosciences,  
University of Nottingham,  
Sutton Bonington Campus,  
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UK

14<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2005

To whom it may concern,

RE. DR ERIC KRAMER

I am delighted to have this opportunity to write a letter in support of Eric Kramer, whom I commend to you very highly. I have been working with him over the last 12 months on an Integrative Systems Biology project based in the School of Biosciences here in Nottingham, and have come to have a high and very warm regard for him.

Systems Biology is the area in which most biological and medical research will become intimately involved over the coming decade. Unfortunately, the world is woefully short of people with the necessary blend of interdisciplinary skills and research insight to move Systems Biology forward effectively. Eric Kramer is a wonderful exception. He has an excellent understanding of plant-science research priorities, sees clearly how math modelling will aid our understanding of plant physiological and growth mechanisms, and concisely articulates the key experiments that laboratory scientists need to do to aid the development of predictive models of plant growth and behaviour. He has also demonstrated an uncanny skill of speaking on equal terms with mathematicians, engineers and computer scientists as well as biologists and medical scientists. His collaborative work with us has already led to predictions that have later been confirmed in the lab, and he has co-authored with Nottingham scientists a recent paper accepted by the world-leading journal *Nature Cell Biology*.

It is abundantly clear that he is capable of far more than his current position allows. Hence I am very keen to help him find a full-time research position elsewhere. At present he has personal reasons for wishing to remain in the United States, which I admire. Otherwise, I would have made every effort to create a position for him here. As things stand, Nottingham is so impressed that we have already funded two visits by him to our university, and I have applied for the funding to support him as a part-time Visiting Fellow over the next five years. As a person, he is warm, intelligent and highly likeable, and seems to get on well with everyone he meets. Hence I believe he will be a great asset to your university.

Yours sincerely

Prof. T.C. Hodgman

Chair Bioinformatics and Systems Biology,  
Director Multidisciplinary Centre for Integrative Biology