



October 27, 2005

Dr. Yves V. Brun
Professor and Director
Microbiology Program
Department of Biology
Indiana University
Bloomington IN

Dear Dr. Brun,

I have known Herbert Sauro for many years. His contributions have spanned a number of areas in systems biology and more recently synthetic biology. His contributions have been significant in that they have tended to greatly affected subsequent work by other researchers and he has always tended to lead in the development of new areas. He was one of the first to see the utility of metabolic control analysis (MCA) and wrote a number of papers that changed the course of its development. He wrote the first software for PCs that incorporated many innovative features including conservation analysis and MCA. He helped extend MCA to areas such as enzyme-enzyme interactions, substrate sequestration and time dependent analysis.

Due to a decline in funding in the early 90s Herbert Sauro left the academia world to peruse other endeavors including high school teaching, starting his own software business and working as a consultant for the Financial Times and GE Capital. When systems biology began to rise in the US in the late 90s, he returned to Academia as a visiting associate at Caltech where together with other workers he spearheaded the development of SBML and SBW. SBML is now the de facto standard for exchanging computational models in systems biology and has been a huge success.

In recent years he has started to look at synthetic biology as a companion discipline to systems biology and recently presented this work at the ICSB2005 meeting. More recently he has been involved in developing testable models for signaling networks involved in the causation of cancer.

In summary I can highly recommend Herbert Sauro for the advertised position. Personally, he is a dedicated scientist and extremely enthusiastic in the work he does. Within the systems biology community, he is unique in that he has a sincere interest in molecular biology coupled with years of experience in computational biology.

Sincerely yours,

B. Kholodenko

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