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Dear Dr. Brun,

It is a great pleasure to write a letter in support of Dr. Stahelin's application for a position at your institution. I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Weill Medical College of Cornell with a joint appointment in The Institute for Computational Biomedicine. My lab uses computational approaches to understand the physical and molecular mechanisms underlying lipid-mediated targeting of proteins to intracellular membranes. In particular, we are examining retroviral assembly and phosphoinositide signaling. As you can see from Dr. Stahelin's CV, we have been conducting a very exciting and fruitful experimental/theoretical collaboration for the past four years that has resulted in eight publications and several more in preparation. He and I fully intend to continue collaborating once he starts his own lab. Through the current collaboration I have interacted very closely with Dr. Stahelin and have gotten to know him very well. I am well acquainted with many of the experimental researchers in the field of protein/membrane interactions, and I feel strongly that Dr. Stahelin will be a scientist who ranks at the very top of this community.

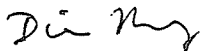
Dr. Stahelin brings a novel, multi-pronged approach to the study of phosphoinositide signaling. For example, in his recent paper in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, "The Origin of C1A-C2 Interdomain Interactions in Protein Kinase C $\alpha$ ", he probes the mechanistic basis of the regulatory quiescent tethering of the C1A and C2 domains using mutagenesis, biophysical techniques (i.e. surface plasmon resonance, monolayer expansion measurements and enzymatic assays) as well as cellular translocation studies (through microscopy). The inclusion of theoretical modeling further attests to his commitment to elucidate membrane-mediated phenomena at the molecular level from multiple perspectives. Dr. Stahelin has complete mastery of an impressive array of experimental approaches and a deep understanding of the underlying biophysics and biology of the systems in which he is interested. This has allowed him to think uniquely and creatively about these problems, and I am very impressed with the research program he plans to pursue.

Dr. Stahelin is a wonderful colleague and is exactly the kind of person I would want in my department to interact with on a day-to-day basis. I know that he has been a superb mentor to the

students in Professor Cho's lab. He recently presented a beautiful seminar to my lab and, in turn, listened thoughtfully to presentations from some of my lab members. He easily engaged them in productive discussion, seamlessly breaking both the theory/experiment and scientist/student barriers.

I am distributing Dr. Stahelin's CV to colleagues and chairs in the New York area hoping that a position will become available so that we may recruit him here. I think he is that rare individual who is an all-around spectacular scientist and an extremely nice person. I support him without reservation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may facilitate this opportunity for him in any way.

My best,



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