

October 31, 2005

Jeremy Bennett
Faculty Search Coordinator
Department of Biology
Indiana University
1001 East 3rd Street
Jordan Hall 127
Bloomington, IN 47405-3700

Dear Mr. Bennett:

It is a pleasure for me to recommend Zhengchang Su for a faculty position in your department. While at UAB, Su carried out research that was instrumental in developing patch clamp methods to study the mechanism by which depletion of endoplasmic reticulum calcium stores leads to activation of plasma membrane Ca^{2+} channels. He pioneered techniques that have allowed recording from these channels and has two important papers that resulted from this work. These were the result of careful and creative experimental designs, many of which were directly attributable to Su's innovations. During his work here I was consistently impressed by how critical Su was in evaluating his own data and how insightful he was in determining the directions that would next be useful to him. As you know, Su went on to pursue studies in computational genomics. He has also been successful in this endeavor. He remains eager to learn, interested in only doing the most rigorous research, and highly motivated. Su has also worked hard with his communication skills and now is very adept at discussing his experiments in a clear and articulate manner. He also is developing his skills in writing his results for publication.

On a personal note, Su is very honest and straightforward with an active sense of humor. His co-workers here respected his judgment and considered him a close friend. He will no doubt assist in propagating an aura of cooperativity within your department.

In summary, I believe Su performed admirably here at UAB. He is clearly interested in pursuing studies of interest to your department. I recommend him to you with enthusiasm and confidence.

Sincerely yours,

Richard B. Marchase, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research
Senior Associate Dean for Biomedical Research
Professor of Cell Biology

RBM/sj