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October 27, 2005

Yves Brun
Systems Biology/Microbiology Faculty Search
Department of Biology
Indiana University
Jordan Hall 142, 1001 E 3rd St
Bloomington, IN 47405-7005
USA

Dear Dr. Brun:

Dr. Necmettin Yildirim has asked me to write you on his behalf in support of his application for a faculty position. I do so with great pleasure.

Necmettin is a Turkish mathematician who has worked in the past on aspects of chemical kinetics, and especially on automating MatLab routines to deal with chemical reaction schemes. He contacted me "out of the blue" in 2000, asking if he could do a postdoc with me, and since I knew nothing of him, his university, and his supervisor replied that he was welcome to come but only if he got together some money on his own. This he did, obtaining money from NATO and from the equivalent of the Turkish NSF. I was sufficiently impressed with this level of initiative and drawing power that I supplemented his funding from these two sources between 2001 and 2003 when he left Montreal for North Carolina.

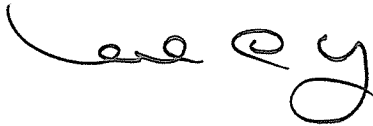
Necmettin arrived in August, 2001, and we immediately decided to try to work on dynamics in the lac operon. Various aspects of this work were published in the Biophysical Journal (2003), and in Comptes Rendus Biologies (2004) and Chaos (2004). I felt that it was a pretty credible amount of work considering he was in my group for only about 18 months, and that he knew virtually no biology when he arrived in Montreal. Necmettin was a delight to work with, and was extremely diligent in tracking down parameter values from the biological literature, since I was determined to not just have another "mathematical model" of the lac operon, but rather one that was as biologically realistic as possible.

As you probably know, since leaving Montreal, Necmettin has been working in the laboratory of Prof. Tim Elston in Chapel Hill. I had the occasion to spend a considerable amount of time with

both Necmettin and Prof. Elston last April when I was teaching a short course at Duke. I was extremely impressed with their modeling work that was being done on G-protein signaling pathways. Indeed, when Prof. Elston visited our Centre and the Department of Physiology several weeks ago, one of the topics he chose to talk about was this. While here Necmettin was very involved with the other postdocs and students, and always very giving of his time and energy in helping others. He is a fine person and I count myself fortunate that he was with me, even though the time was short. In short, I highly recommend Necmettin to you. As one person said, "He is such a fine person.", and it is true. He is kind, and gentle and totally honest.

I would be happy to talk to you on the phone about any of these points, or others that I have failed to bring up.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mackey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning and a large, looped "y" at the end.

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