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

Dear Dr. Brun,

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of Peter Houston, who was a graduate student in my group when I was at UT-Austin. Peter worked on a variety of projects having to do with the enzymology of genetic recombination, which was a major focus of my laboratory at that time. One of Peter's nicest accomplishments was the development of a real time helicase assay based on enzyme-mediated unwinding of a synthetic duplex labeled with fluorescent donors and acceptors in close proximity. This was part of a larger effort to develop fluorescence-based real time assays for a number of steps in the recombination cycle so as to be able to conduct serious kinetic analyses of these processes. Unfortunately, we lost our funding for these efforts before they came to fruition and Peter switched to a project in which we attempted to characterize some of the enzymology of the *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* recombination machinery.

Peter was a very interested and dedicated student. He is something of a scientist's scientist. Indeed, he was far and away the best informed of my graduate students, even about areas that were quite different than his research project. When he first joined the lab, he was quite naïve about experimental work, but worked hard to catch up. After a predictably slow start therefore, he became quite a good protein biochemist. Having mastered this area, Peter wanted to learn genetics as well. Thus, he went to Broach's lab at Princeton, where it seems that he has done well. I think that he has an excellent range of skills now.

Peter is a bright guy and an absolutely terrific person. He was always happy to help people out and was good at training new people that came into the laboratory. He writes well and is a competent speaker. Peter is a scientist who will throw himself into teaching and research with great enthusiasm and who will be an excellent colleague.

Sincerely,



Thomas Kodadek
Professor of Internal Medicine and Biochemistry