

November 1, 2005

Jeremy Bennett  
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Dear Members of the Search Committee,

I am writing to recommend **Dr. Ovidiu Lipan** for the position of assistant professor.

I got to know Ovidiu very well during a two-year period (2000-2002) in the course of an intensely collaborative research project, and I have kept in touch with him since his move to Georgia. He developed the algorithms that we used to analyze genes regulated by circadian clocks in liver and heart [K.-F. Storch, O. Lipan, I. Leykin, N. Viswanathan, F.C. Davis, W.H. Wong, C. J. Weitz. Extensive and divergent circadian gene expression in liver and heart. *Nature* 417, 78-83 (2002)]. Although we are not at present collaborating, we have kept up an intermittent dialogue about ideas related to oscillatory networks and signal detection.

Ovidiu brings impressive sophistication in computational methods to questions in biology. He obtained his doctorate in theoretical physics from the University of Chicago and was a postdoctoral fellow in theoretical physics at Caltech. He became interested in biology and joined Wing Wong's computational biology group as a postdoctoral fellow in 2000. Ovidiu has made creative contributions to a number of different projects, which include developing new bioinformatics tools, devising algorithms for identification of *cis* regulatory elements, and using periodic stimuli in a novel way to probe the structure of genetic networks. Although Ovidiu is still a relative newcomer to biology, he is on an impressive trajectory. From the point of view of a close collaborator, I found the fresh and unusual perspective that Ovidiu brings to biology truly invigorating.

Working with Ovidiu was a real pleasure. He is brimming over with ideas, is open and collaborative by nature, and is eager to work with and learn from experienced biologists. He is really fun and stimulating to work with, and he is fundamentally driven by scientific curiosity and ideas. He has a great deal to offer to any department interested in computational biology and innovations in signal detection and signal processing. I strongly recommend him for the position of assistant professor.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Weitz, M.D., Ph.D.  
*Robert Henry Pfeiffer Professor of Neurobiology*  
Harvard Medical School