

Vatche Sahakian  
Department of Physics  
Harvey Mudd College  
Claremont, CA 91711

T 909.607.4592  
F 909.621.8887

[sahakian@hmc.edu](mailto:sahakian@hmc.edu)

November 2, 2005

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

Dear Dr. Bennett:

I have known Ovidiu Lipan for the past ten years, both through professional and personal interactions. Ovidiu is an exceptionally bright and hard working scholar. Of numerous physicists and mathematicians I have interacted with over the years, I have found Ovidiu amongst a handful of the most interesting and versatile scientists. His work in Integrable Models as a graduate student was outstanding and beautiful - exploring the elaborate overlap between physics and mathematics. Moreover, Ovidiu completed this work on his own while he was a graduate student, through hard work and discipline. Subsequently, his focus on applications of physics and mathematics to biological systems reflects his multifaceted interests and talents; his work is indeed an exemplary case of very successful interdisciplinary science.

I have also known Ovidiu while he was a teaching assistant at the University of Chicago, in both laboratory and more formal lecture settings. I remember that he was very popular; his meticulous style was greatly appreciated by the students as he spared no time and effort in explaining intricate concepts to both undergraduate and graduate students.

Ovidiu is also a very pleasant person to interact with. He is kind, very polite, and often entertaining. He has an highly developed sense of responsibility, both in his professional work as well as in his personal life. I have seen him struggle through difficult economic situations as a married graduate student always with a smile on his face, upbeat about work, life, and science. Indeed, he was an inspiration to his colleagues who knew him well. In my upper division classes at Harvey Mudd, I often mention him to my students in anecdotes that demonstrate exemplary commitment to physics and mathematics.

I am confident that Ovidiu would be an outstanding faculty member and an asset to any institution. I recommend him very strongly.

Sincerely yours,

Vatche Sahakian  
Department of Physics  
Harvey Mudd College