



Prof Tracy Palmer

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18th November 2005

Dear Dr Bennett,

Letter of Recommendation for Dr Gareth Butland

It is a real pleasure for me to provide you with a reference for Gareth Butland. I have known Gareth since 1996 when I took up my Faculty position at the John Innes Centre in Norwich. At that time he had just started his PhD at the nearby University of East Anglia and was supervised by two of my close colleagues, Professors David Richardson and Stephen Spiro. Gareth was an exceptionally bright and confident graduate student and published 3 papers from his PhD work. I should point out that this is a very respectable publication output for someone undertaking their PhD within the UK system.

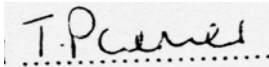
I lost touch with Gareth until early in 2005, where he contacted me out of the blue. It transpired that he had been involved in a truly outstanding study of native level protein complexes in *Escherichia coli*. Part of his studies had turned up some very interesting pre-export complexes between metalloenzymes and chaperone proteins, an area in which we are actively working. I was extremely impressed with Gareth's data, which in one fell swoop turned around our thinking on what was happening in the cell during assembly of these complex enzymes. I was also impressed by his open-ness and his willingness to collaborate and share his data, and as a result we have been collaborating in this area ever since.

In addition to collaborating with Gareth, I have also been involved with him on a mentoring level. Thus I have been guiding him with careers advice and I have been reading various grant proposals that he has put together. I am struck by the potential applications of the tagging technology that he has helped to pioneer and it has been exciting to see how Gareth wishes to exploit this. He is ideally, if not uniquely placed to take a systems approach to any bacterium

(provided one is armed with a genome sequence and suitable genetic tools) he so wishes. Thus I think he would be a powerful asset to any microbiology department. Overall I have been highly impressed with his scientific, ideas his technology development and his approach to collaboration. I am sure he would make a valuable addition to your department.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature appears to read "T. Palmer" and is written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal dotted line.

Tracy Palmer