



COMMISSARIAT A L'ENERGIE ATOMIQUE - CENTRE D'ETUDES DE SACLAY - F 91191 GIF-SUR-YVETTE CEDEX

DIRECTION DES SCIENCES DU VIVANT
DEPARTEMENT DE BIOLOGIE CELLULAIRE
ET MOLECULAIRE

Section de Bioénergétique

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Letter of assessment for Kevin Redding

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

It is with pleasure that I provide you with this letter of reference for Kevin Reddin. I know him fairly well since he worked in collaboration with my group while he was as a post doctoral fellow with Dr. Rochaix in Geneva and I have followed his career closely since that time.

Dr. Redding has rapidly established himself as a field leader in his current area of interest : the molecular biology of photosystem I. His post doc project was outstanding and his work in his faculty position has kept him ahead of the other groups in this area. This occurred for several reasons. 1) He has applied innovative methodology and ideas in order to streamline the procedures used to make mutagenesis more efficient. 2) He has great motivation and drive and has put in the hard work and long hours required to bring his projects to fruition. In addition he seems to encounter no activation energy between his ideas and their implementation. 3) His ideas are creative and interesting. He has a natural intellectual ability that has allowed him to provide himself with a profound understanding of the complex literature, to avoid the trivial and remain focused on important issues. In short he is a gifted experimentalist, driven to succeed and extremely bright.

I met him at a European meeting in 1996 and a long conversation ensued in front of his poster. I was impressed by his work and I suggested a collaboration. Since then he has visited Saclay several times and we are in regular E-mail contact. Our scientific discussions have ranged well outside his main research projects and have covered the rationalisation of spurious old papers lurking in the literature (not mine, you understand) to speculating on the evolution of bioenergetics.

He has also done important work concerning the high profile debate concerning the requirement of Photosystem I for reducing CO₂ in algae. It is my opinion that the work of Kevin Redding laid to rest this question with several unequivocal experiments. At the same time this work has produced some interesting new insights which triggered further important work in this area resulting in a series of high quality papers understanding the complexities of algal electron transfer routes in vivo.

His original work on the electron transfer up both sides of the PSI core dimer stands out as classic paper in the field. I featured it when I led the discussion at the Gordon conference at that time and I wrote a journal club article in the popular science magazine Trends in Biochemical Science. His work on this fascinating theme continues apace and his recent work has consolidated the breakthrough and extended into several more recent papers that provide more useful insights. At this year's Gordon



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Conference on photosynthesis Kevin Redding presented a major talk on this subject and it was excellent in content and presentation.

He has given two well-received seminars at Saclay and I have seen him give several talks and be actively involved in discussion sessions at international conferences. He has risen to a position where his name is a regular feature among the speakers at international meetings and this is only to be expected given the quality of his work and its impact. At the recent International Congress on Photosynthesis, I heard him described as "brilliant" in his official role as discussion leader.

He worked well with several of my colleagues at Saclay and has established close collaborative relationships with several researchers nationally and internationally. He is friendly and easy to get along with and explains complex concepts well. Given his style, his commitment and his clearly established teaching philosophy, I am sure that he must be excellent in a teaching role. I may add that he trained a post doc from my laboratory in the rudiments of molecular biology : no mean feat since the post doc in question was a physical spectroscopist.

It should be pointed out that his excellent work in the field of plant protein molecular biology came after a PhD on a completely different subject in which he also produced several papers in prestigious journals. Thus he has provided the proof that he is a researcher who is broad in experience and capable of success in whatever field applies himself.

In summary, Kevin Redding is an exciting young researcher who really is outstanding among researchers at his career level. I would argue that he is the best young researcher in the field of photosynthesis at present. He has already made significant contributions to his field and he has already become a leader in the field. I recommend him to you without reservation.

Yours faithfully,

A.W. Rutherford
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Head of the Service of Bioenergetics (CEA)
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