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Universiteit Utrecht

Date: November 15, 2005
Your reference:
Our reference:
Subject: application Venu Reddy

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Dear Dr. Brun,

It is with pleasure that I comment on the scientific abilities of Dr. Venu Reddy. I came to know Dr. Reddy in my role as editor of the journal *Development* when he and his co-authors submitted a paper on real-time lineage analysis in the *Arabidopsis* shoot apex. This paper contains ground-breaking work that sets the stage for the next phase of plant development: analysis of cell division and gene expression in complex multicellular environments.

Dr. Reddy's diligent work to make this analysis possible has come to full fruition in follow-up analysis of the distribution of polar auxin transport facilitator proteins and relevant gene expression patterns during leaf primordium outgrowth, recently published in *Current Biology*. The reported observations suggest intriguing models for leaf positioning in the shoot apex and, like the above mentioned m/s, is likely to be an ever-green in the field.

A smart combination of conditional mutant analysis, live imaging and reporter genes subsequently enabled Dr. Reddy to discriminate between different models on CLV3-mediated restriction of the stem cell pool which led to a recent report in *Science*.

I have met Dr. Reddy at a FASEB meeting in Vermont and discussed models of stem cell maintenance with him; in that conversation he struck me as an intelligent, self-conscious and careful scientist who knows the relevant literature and is able to make his own synthesis of a large set of data.

Based on these considerations, I have no hesitations to wholeheartedly recommend Dr. Reddy for the position in your group.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ben Scheres', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ben Scheres