



The DEPARTMENT of INTERNAL MEDICINE

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Yves Brun
Systems Biology/Microbiology Faculty Search
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To Members of the Search Committee:

Jesse Wright is one of the three best graduate students that I have worked with in my 12 years on the faculty at the University of Virginia. I have followed Jesse Wright's career and scientific accomplishments in my role as Director of the Infectious Diseases Training Program. Jesse was a graduate student in the Program and actively participated in the Research-in-Progress sessions, journal clubs and classes. He was also a rich source of intellectual and technical support in my laboratory with several of my students' projects involving protein structure and function.

Through this prolonged and intense interaction, I have witnessed first hand Jesse's love for science. He lives and breathes science, and it is both a calling and a hobby for him. There is no one with a greater ability to work hard, and work in a focused and goal-oriented fashion. His work on the histidine kinase UhpB and its regulator UhpA provided novel insights into how this two component regulatory system operates. Jesse's ability for independent and creative thought was demonstrated by his ability to work through an unexpected finding that expression of a GST fusion of UhpB acted as a dominant negative of UhpA, and led to the structural and functional definition of the docking domain.

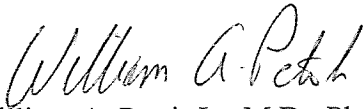
Jesse has continued to be productive and original throughout his postdoctoral studies. His work on staphylococcal quorum sensing has helped pioneer the use of bioluminescent imaging to monitor the temporal and spatial dynamics of microbial virulence gene regulation

during infection. His most recent findings have revealed that staphylococcal quorum sensing coordinates the development of social behaviors. Jesse is eager to understand how staphylococcal quorum sensing integrates and regulates the fundamental aspects of staphylococcal virulence, social development and species diversity.

Jesse is a clear and interesting speaker and an excellent teacher. There is also no one more congenial and collegial than Mr. Wright. He shares his knowledge, ideas, technical expertise and love of science freely.

Mr. Wright will be a superb addition to your faculty, in my opinion.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William A. Petri, Jr." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

William A. Petri, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.
Wade Hampton Frost Professor of Epidemiology