

IFAS

Microbiology and Cell Science Department
Search Committee Chair,
Thursday, November 17, 2005

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Dear Chair of Hiring Committee

It is my pleasure to write this letter in strong support of Dr. Jamie Bacher's application for the faculty position in your department. I worked with Dr Bacher when he joined the laboratory of Paul Schimmel at the Scripps Research Institute in July 2003, as he collaborated with my group on several projects related to evolution of the genetic code and the role of recombination in evolution.

After working with Dr Bacher for a year in close collaboration, I consider he is one of the two top- post-doctoral fellows I have had the occasion to encounter. He combines a fierce will to get the job done with great originality and depth in thinking about his research. I saw him master several non-trivial techniques that he needed to accomplish his research program with incredible speed and ease. He is not satisfied but with the highest level of rigor and controls and experiments. The depth of our conversations on his projects and on other projects going on in the laboratory was a real pleasure for the mind. And above all he has the mental energy to overcome the hurdles of research projects as recently shown when we discovered after six months of work that a result was due to an artefact!

He has the independence and maturity to design interesting projects and I think his major assets are this versatility in experimental capabilities and his breadth knowledge. He can address difficult problems that require multidisciplinary approaches stemming from biochemistry to genetics to statistics.

On a more personal note, it has been a pleasure working with Jamie over the last year, and I am enthusiastic about the prospects of continual productive collaboration. He has an excellent rapport with his colleagues, collaborators, and faculty, due to his well-rounded, open-minded, and generous personality. There is no doubt he will become be an excellent colleague, collaborator, and future mentor to students.

I am more than happy to answer any specific questions regarding his application, should they arise. Please do not hesitate to contact me by phone (352 3929416) or by email (vcrecy@ufl.edu).

Sincerely Yours,

Valérie de Crécy-Lagard, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Dpt of Microbiology and Cell Science