



College of Arts and Sciences

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Linda K. Langlois  
Departmental Secretary  
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Swain West 129  
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Re: Shabir Qureshi

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend **Shabir Qureshi** for a postdoctoral position in your laboratory. Shabir has worked in my as a postdoctoral fellow since April, 2004, when he arrived from India.

My group has been focusing on structure-function studies of restriction enzymes. Shabir has focused in testing proposed endonuclease mechanisms using kinetic techniques. He began by evaluating a number of real-time fluorescence techniques, after which time we moved to discontinuous assays using PAGE. In the pursuit of this work, he has also gained experience with curve and data fitting, protein purification and a number of basic molecular biology techniques. I also make my group read religiously, so his grasp of areas of protein and nucleic acid biochemistry is probably superior.

Since this project is technically quite challenging, we have not yet submitted any manuscripts. However, in the final few months of his stay, we are putting final touches on the kinetics story. I therefore expect at least one publication from this work. In addition, he has supported the efforts of one of the graduate students, and will likely be a co-author on that paper as well.

Shabir has a number of strengths: The term "nice guy" is overworked, but it is quite appropriate in his case. He is very professional and gets along with everyone. He has a strong

work ethic and spends a lot of time in lab. He is eager to please and is responsive to guidance and corrections. He has become quite accomplished in data collection, and this is reflected in the reproducibility of his work. In addition, his work requires a lot of data organization, and he pays careful attention to this housekeeping.

If there were one area where he needs to develop further, it would be in his level of independence. While he can easily organize his time on a daily basis and can often make experimental suggestions, thinking about new ideas and directions is quite challenging for him. And while he will happily help someone if asked, he doesn't tend to think of himself as a leader in the lab.

A word about accent: He is from northern India and as such does not have the typically British-sounding Indian accent. However, I find he is quite understandable. Occasionally he speaks very quickly and runs words together; a reminder to slow down is quickly heeded.

The reason I have encouraged Shabir to move on is principally financial: My grant is up for renewal, and in this climate, a postdoc is too expensive a luxury for what could be a long wait. Regarding his expected availability, the renewed yearly visa expires on May 31, making him available in June of this year.

I don't know what you are looking for in a postdoc in terms of background, but in my case, given his dramatic development as a scientist in my lab, he is now quite superior to someone who would apply from overseas for a postdoc in my lab, particularly from India.

If you have any specific questions about Shabir, please let me know.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia M. Dupureur". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical red line.

Cynthia M. Dupureur  
Associate Professor