Dear Prof. Higgins,

I would like to recommend you my colleague Vasily Khomenkov who is interested to join you University team. For last year and a half he was involved in my project focused on structural study of IgA-specific protease from meningococcus and two other projects. In the course of these, he exhibited an excellent skills in molecular biology such as PCR, cloning, sequencing and recombinant expression. The best examples of his trials were sequencing of two new IgAse genes from pathogenic Neisseria and engineering of producer starins based on these (please, consult the respective data in NCBI Gene Bank Entrez). Later he succeeded to clone a new isoform of a growth hormone derived from placenta and to produce it in E.coli. I would like to note that these experiments were carried out in parallel with his main research of bacterial consortia in frames of PhD project.

Taken together, my experience of collaborating with Vasily Khomenkov enables to recommend him as a desirable memeber of you laboratory. He could readily contribute to engineering recombinant producers of any proteins therefore his theoretical background and practical skills are concerned essentially to this field.

Best regards, yours sincerely Alexei B. Shevelev, PhD head of molecular biology group A.N. Bakh Insitute of Biochemistry RAS 119071, Leninskii prosp., 33 Moscow, Russia tel 007(095) 954 3066 fax 007(095) 954 2732