

Ms. Amy Higgins
The Biocomplexity Institute
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

May 1, 2006

To whom it may concern at Indiana University:

Dr. Mike Melnichuk asked me to write a letter of recommendation in support of his application as a postdoctoral researcher in your research group. I know Mike since June 2005 when he joined my group at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) as a postdoctoral research associate.

Dr. Melnichuk's primary responsibilities in my lab have been to implement a novel design of a Two-Photon Microscope (TPM) for use in biophysical studies, in particular in molecular imaging. By the time he had joined my group, Mike had little experience in ultrafast optics and computer control-of laboratory instrumentation and at first felt somewhat intimidated by the number of parameters one needs to control for aligning and operating a modelocked laser. However, he has been able to learn at a fairly fast pace and to meaningfully contribute to all these aspects of research in my group. Our two photon microscope is currently in the final stage of construction and it is hoped to become fully operational by the time Mike's contract at UWM expires this June.

Mike has also been keen to become involved in biophysics research and learn about biophysics and molecular biology. In this regard, he has attended a graduate-level course of cellular and molecular biophysics that I teach in the Department of Physics at UWM, and has participated in final stages of cell sample preparation (mostly yeast cells expressing GFP-tagged G-protein coupled receptors). Mike has then investigated such samples using a confocal microscope prior to the spectral measurements that he has conducted with the TPM.

In conclusion, during his stay in my lab Dr. Mike Melnichuk has grown professionally, and has enhanced his knowledge in the field of optics, and acquired significant knowledge in the general field of biophysics, and more specifically in biophotonics. I therefore recommend him for a postdoctoral position in your laboratory and I believe that this may be beneficial to your research and it will also help broaden Mike's knowledge in sciences and help him reach full professional maturity. If you need further information and clarifications, please do not hesitate to e-mail or call me and I will be very happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

Valerică Raicu, Asst. Professor,
Department of Physics and Department of Biological Sciences
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee,
P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201-0413, USA
Phone: (414) 229-4969
Fax: (414) 229-5589
<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Physics/Raicu/>