

**From:** Dennis Bray [mailto:d.bray@zoo.cam.ac.uk]  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 13, 2003 3:36 AM  
**To:** De Ruyter, Robert R.  
**Subject:** Sergej Aksenov: Reference letter

Dear Professor de Ruyter

Sergej Aksenov has been with me for just over a year. When he arrived he joined Tom Shimizu in a project then nearing completion concerning a stochastic model of bacterial chemotaxis. Sergej set to with motivation and determination and was able to make a significant contribution to the successful completion of this study, published as a paper in the Journal of Molecular Biology. Since that study he has tackled a number of related issues and is currently examining how a bacterium can choose between two or more distinct chemotactic signals.

Sergej is a skillful programmer and experienced in both deterministic and stochastic simulations. Despite this he has a clear preference for mathematical analysis and likes to combine his considerable abilities in this area with his knowledge of biochemical processes and related molecular and biological aspects. He is methodical and hard working and shows great tenacity in tackling difficult problems. He is a valuable colleague, quiet, friendly and always ready to help others.

I have heard Sergej give a number of public presentations, informal and formal. Initially he was rather unsure of himself but as he became more familiar with the chemotaxis system so his communication skills improved.

I hope this is of some help.

Best wishes  
Dennis Bray

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