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Biocomplexity Faculty Search Committee,
c/o Prof. Rob de Ruyter van Steveninck,
Biocomplexity Institute,
Indiana University,
Swain Hall West 117,
Bloomington IN, 47405-7105,
USA



Groningen, November 21, 2003

Dear Prof. de Ruyter van Steveninck,

I heard from Ronen Zanghi, presently postdoc with my successor Alan Mark in Groningen, that he has applied for a position with you. He asked me to write a letter of recommendation for him.

Since Ronen joined the laboratory after I retired from my position as professor of physical chemistry, I know him personally only from several talks with him about his work and also by hearing lectures he gave in the group. I have not been in a supervisory position with respect to his research work, but I have followed his work with interest.

I have been impressed by the accuracy and depth of his work. He is a very reliable, able and thorough scientist, with a good background, also in physics. His work tends to be perfect. I am sure that he has the maturity to work independently. He will be able to select proper research topics, and pursue them to the end. He tends somewhat to perfectionism, not being content with half answers or incomplete conclusions.

He is a pleasant collaborator. His recent work on the preferential adsorption of hydroxyl ions at interfaces is quite impressive. The idea originated from talks he had with my colleague in physical-organic chemistry, prof. Jan Engberts, who had come across experimental hints that hydroxyl ions at interfaces might play a crucial role in the stability of emulsions. I mean, if Ronen might give the superficial impression to be a lonely worker: that is false as he has shown to communicate well with his peers and colleagues.

His only problem, as I perceive it, is that he does not present himself very well in an interview. He does not really advertise himself; on the contrary, he may even play down on his own achievements. I urge you to look through this superficiality. He is quite a pleasant person to work with. His integrity is without doubt.

As far as teaching is concerned, I cannot make valid comments, as I have not seen him in this capacity.

I would consider him mature enough to engage in a university faculty position, and hope that he may find a position that carries some permanency. I recommend him highly to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H.J.C. Berendsen', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Herman J.C. Berendsen,
emeritus professor.