



# BOSTON BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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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

Dear Biocomplexity Faculty Search Committee:

I am very happy to write this letter in support of Dr. Svitlana Yu. Berezhna's application for a faculty position in the Biocomplexity Institute at Indiana University.

I have known Dr. Berezhna for over a year. I first talked with her when she called me from her laboratory at Northeastern University to ask for advice concerning her mitochondria and cytochrome *c* project. From the very beginning of our acquaintance, she impressed me with her knowledge of mitochondria and various spectroscopic methodologies. I was even more impressed when I discovered that her training was not in Biochemistry / Cell Biology but in Physics / Nonlinear Optics. She had no trouble convincing me of the significance of her project and thus began our collaboration. She identified and characterized cytochrome *c* / mitochondrial membrane interactions, important for an understanding of apoptosis, in bovine heart and rat liver mitochondria with resonance Raman spectroscopy. She has written up this work and we published it in *Biochemistry*.

Dr. Berezhna's many excellent questions and comments convey a sense of eagerness to learn and do exciting and important things. I have observed her during the short time that she spent in my laboratory working on various preparative procedures. She does not shy away from laboratory work, i.e. things that have to be done do get done. I would have enjoyed having her in my laboratory for a longer period of time.

Svitlana has demonstrated a great ability to rapidly acquire knowledge in a field completely new to her and to utilize this information intelligently and very effectively in

her work. She is a very kind person with a very positive attitude and a good sense of humor. I am convinced that she will make an excellent addition to the faculty in your Biocomplexity Institute.

I hope that these comments are of help to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Wohlrab". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hartmut Wohlrab, Ph.D. (Stanford University)  
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