



November 20, 2003

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

Recommendation letter for Dr. Svitlana Berezhna

Dear Chairman,

It is a pleasure to write a recommendation letter for Ms. Svitlana Berezhna. I know Svitlana since the summer of 1997, when we met at the International Workshop for Advances in Experimental Mechanics. During this workshop she told me about her scientific interests and we discussed some topics of common interest, it was a mutually fruitful discussion. The area of my expertise is Photomechanics, with the main applications to stress analysis. Since her background was in optics we were able to find a number of possible problems to work together on. At this meeting (1997) we decided to apply for a support from the NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, USA. We got the support for common research and since then we worked together (via email, visits, and at several conferences).

The results of our cooperative research were presented at the conferences and the paper was published in the "Applied Optics". Svitlana contributed significant part for these publications, her input was extremely important. She provided experimental data and theoretical background needed for successful completion of this project. We spent considerable amount of time discussing the approach and the obtained results. I was impressed with her insight into the problem and ability to suggest elegant solutions to number of problems we encountered during this research project. I was also amazed by her logics in analyzing problems of the mechanics even though this is not her major field.

I rate Svitlana very high for her ability to grasp the problem and suggest a simple solution. She was able to learn very quickly new to her areas and contribute to the success of the project. We still continue our collaboration and I find this very satisfying. I have no doubt that Svitlana has a tremendous potential for scientific leadership in an academic setting. She has an ability to work independently and in a team toward the successful completion of the project. Svitlana is always looking for new and exciting applications, just recently we started to cooperate on the development of a methodology for probing cell viscoelasticity using single particle tracking fluorescence microscopy.

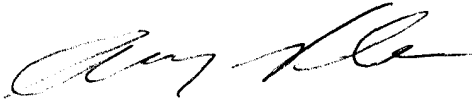
I can characterize Dr.S.Berezhna as an outstanding researcher with internationally recognized reputation. Dr. Berezhna is a hard and responsible worker, she is a scientist with a good intuition for the solution of nontrivial problems, and has very high experimental skills in optics.

From my personal interactions with Svitlana, I got an impression that she is a highly intelligent and perceptive person. It was and is a real pleasure to work with her.

Dr. Berezhna has a very good command in English and the necessary background to teach physics courses to both graduate and undergraduate students.

I recommend her with greatest enthusiasm. She undoubtedly will be a valuable member of the team and will bring a vigorous and creative mood to the group, and I am sure that she will be an asset to your research and teaching environment.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arkady Voloshin', written in a cursive style.

Arkady Voloshin

Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Mechanics