



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE · NEW YORK, NEW YORK · 10021-6399

December 8, 2003

Dr. R. de Ruyter van Steveninck
Indiana University Bloomington
Department of Physics
727 E. Third Street
Bloomington, IN 47405-7105

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Dr. de Ruyter van Steveninck:

Recommendation Letter for Dr. John Marco

I met John Marko first in 1989 at the University of Chicago where I was a Professor. He was working on grafted polymers and polymer brushes with Tom Witten. He was then a quiet, discrete and competent post-doc and did excellent research on polymer physics. Then, in 1993, when I was in Princeton, I heard him talk about DNA super-coiling. John had given a superb lecture, a clear sign that he had grown up to become a competent biophysicist. We recruited him at Rockefeller University as a 'Fellow' with complete research freedom as long as he worked on biological problems. Here, he showed the extent of his talents, stimulating us to work on chromosome elasticity. I interacted with him on a daily basis. Apparently, John had turned into a brilliant scientist, keeping his pedagogical talents he always had. By then, he was one of the world's experts on DNA mechanics. Now at the Department of Physics at the University of Illinois, Chicago, John is in charge of an attractive experimental laboratory and keeps his own theoretical work. His recent study on topoisomerase in collaboration with Rockefeller Professor Marcelo Magnasco is superb in its elegance and physical intuition.

As you can see, I am a great admirer of John, who started in a quite modest fashion, and has grown each time I have seen him. In this new domain, at the interface between biology and mathematical physics, he is one of the best today. He has international recognition and he is original with innovative research accomplishments. I strongly believe that John will run a remarkable program, balanced between theory and experiments, addressing biological problems with a quantitative approach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Albert J. Libchaber (eaa)".

Albert J. Libchaber
Detlev W. Bronk Professor

AJL/eaa

CELEBRATING
100
YEARS