



TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Biomedical Engineering Department

Re: Reference letter for Dr. Vlad Toronov

Date: 11/25/2003

To Whom It May Concern:

I have had the pleasure to work with Dr. Vlad Toronov at the Laboratory for Fluorescence Dynamics (LFD), Department of Physics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from 1997 to 1999. Dr. Toronov's research activity at the LFD was devoted to near-infrared studies of turbid media, with an emphasis on applications to the functional imaging of the brain. Dr. Toronov's strong background in physics and optics allowed him to give important contributions to the research project that he joined. He quickly complemented his optics background with the appropriate biophysics and physiology knowledge required to effectively design and carry out new medical applications of the near-infrared technology. He soon became able to proceed independently and to contribute new ideas and indicate new directions for the project. Dr. Toronov was also very active in supervising the research activity of graduate and undergraduate students, providing excellent help and guidance to their research efforts. The achievements of Dr. Toronov include the development of a new optical measurement technique (photon-density-wave fluctuation correlation spectroscopy), the implementation of data analysis schemes based on the concept of phase-synchronization, and a key role in the design and performance of experiments involving simultaneous near-infrared imaging and fMRI (functional magnetic resonance imaging) of the human brain. This latter research activity has become a major focus of Dr. Toronov's interests in his current Senior Research Scientist position at the Beckman Institute. He has recently been reporting outstanding results in prestigious journal publications and international conference presentations. Dr. Toronov has always worked hard in the lab, and he has shown the capability of conducting independent research and the potential of being an effective instructor. I am glad to recommend Dr. Toronov for an academic position that requires excellence in both education and scholarship.

Please, do not hesitate to contact me for additional information.

Sincerely,

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