

**The Thomas C. Jenkins  
Department of Biophysics**

Jenkins Hall / 3400 N. Charles Street  
Baltimore MD 21218-2685  
410-516-7245 / FAX 410-516-4118

15 December 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

To The Search Committee:

It is a pleasure to provide this letter of support for **Dr. Dmitri Topygin**, who is applying for the advertised biophysics position in your department. I have known Dr. Topygin for about 6 years. We have collaborated together on a grant application, and I have had many scientific conversations with him, and have heard him lecture a few times. To put the bottom line at the top, I feel that Dr. Topygin is a truly top-notch candidate for a biophysics position in a physics department – even one as highly ranked as yours - and I recommend him to you very highly.

Dr. Topygin is a very gifted and well-trained physicist with a strong background in and talent for instrumentation. He has been very productive. His career here at Johns Hopkins has given him biophysical training and insight, and he is well equipped to be on the forefront of the application of innovative technology to biological problems. He is motivated to seek out biological colleagues to flesh out his projects. He has already become quite visible, and I view his papers in fluorescence as a fundamental contribution to the field.

My own collaboration with him involved a grant application, in which we were hoping to measure the local effective dielectric constant within a protein molecule. Dr. Topygin provided enormous help in planning how to do this with fluorescence. He was generous with his time, creative with his contribution, and gently tolerant of my ignorance.

Dr. Topygin has a pleasant persona, and he gets on well with those around him. He will make a sympathetic and generous colleague. I expect that he will also be a serious and committed teacher.

In closing, let me repeat the bottom line. Dr. Topygin is the epitome of a real physicist doing biophysics, and makes a very strong candidate for any department.

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eaton Lattman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'E' and a long, sweeping underline.

Eaton Lattman, Ph.D.  
Professor and chair