

School of Medicine

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Department of Physiology

11th December 2003

Biocomplexity Faculty Search Committee
c/o Prof. Rob de Ruyter van Steveninck
Biocomplexity Institute
Indiana University

Dear Faculty Search Committee,

It is my pleasure to recommend Hugh Nymeyer to you for a position as a faculty member. I have known Hugh for nearly two years now, through our research on membrane peptide folding into the bilayer. This work started in earnest during the Summer of 2002, when I took the month of August to visit Angel Garcia and his group at Los Alamos National Labs. Hugh, from the beginning, took a strong interest in the project and showed his skills and his insights with both the questions he asked and the rapid pace at which he was able to manipulate and use concepts and algorithms.

As I got to know Hugh better during that first summer, then in more detail via his visit to Hopkins, this last Summer's visit, e-mails and phone calls throughout the last year, I became even more impressed with his intellectual and his computational skills. He has the ability to perform at a faculty level and will be an asset to whatever program you have planned. The paper that we have submitted, based on the initial summer's project is excellent science, well-written, well-performed, and well-analyzed. I have every reason to believe that it will be seen as a landmark paper in the history of membrane protein simulations, since it comments on the molecular details of folding, for membrane peptides, in a way that has not been possible before this date.

I have seen Hugh present the simulation results, at the Biophysical Society meeting in San Antonio, and can confidently predict that he will be an excellent teacher and speaker. He can project his enthusiasm and at the same time explain the concepts to those that do not have the background to follow his



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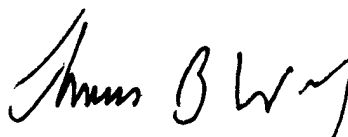
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details. This ability to explain, to provide the wider context, and to communicate the larger excitement behind an idea will serve Hugh well for grant-writing, teaching, and research. I expect that Hugh will be able to lead an independent program in research, to mentor students and post-doctoral fellows and to secure grant funding.

In addition, I had the pleasure of hosting Hugh for a short visit, during the 2003 academic year, and could see his interactions with students and post-doctoral fellows outside of Los Alamos. He is outgoing in a way that encourages others to communicate with him, interested in others ideas and projects, and willing to provide ideas and help to projects outside of his main research focus. This leads me to believe that Hugh will be able a good faculty colleague for the University that recruits him and that he will be an asset for settings that involve people interactions.

In short, I believe that Hugh will make an excellent faculty member and encourage you to recruit him. He should be readily able to recruit students and post-doctoral fellows, to obtain and maintain grant funds, and to perform teaching and administrative duties. I believe you should invite him for a visit and include him on your short list of those to evaluate closely. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further input on his application.

Yours truly,



Thomas B. Woolf
Associate Professor

