



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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December 15, 2003

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

Dear Search Committee,

I am writing to strongly recommend Dr. Neer Asherie for a junior faculty position in your department. Because of my interest in protein chemical physics and protein self-assembly in particular, I have followed Asherie's work. After meeting him at a Workshop at MIT several years ago, I invited him to the NIH to present a seminar and visit with members of the Laboratory of Chemical Physics. He gave an absolutely terrific talk and made a very positive impression on all of the senior scientists in the Laboratory. I immediately offered him a position here, which, unfortunately for us, he declined in order to continue his very interesting work in collaboration with George Benedek at MIT.

Asherie's work on lens proteins has made an important contribution to understanding the phase behavior of protein solutions. I have been particularly impressed with his development of simple models, which gets to the essential physics of the problem. His future plans to characterize and theoretically understand the phase behavior of a number of proteins, including membrane proteins, concern an area that is in urgent need of systematic exploration.

Neer Asherie is an extraordinarily smart young scientist with a very promising future. I expect that he will be a wonderful teacher. Asherie is a winner, and you should give him serious consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W.A. Eaton".

William A. Eaton
Chief, Laboratory of Chemical
Physics