



Department of Molecular Biology
and Biochemistry

560 Steinhaus Hall
Irvine, CA 92697-3900
TEL (949) 824-1931
FAX (949) 824-1954
amcphers@uci.edu

January 7, 2004

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

Dear Prof. Rob de Ruyter van Stevenick

I have known Dr. Neer Asherie for about the last six years, principally through his work, but we have also had numerous conversations at meetings and other scientific gatherings. Neer has also, at my invitation, written a review for a volume I am editing called *Methods: A Companion to Methods in Enzymology* dealing with macromolecular crystallization that is due out sometime next summer.

Neer's research, though having as its ultimate objective the difficult biochemical problem of crystallizing proteins, nucleic acids and viruses, has focused on the physics of their solutions and the phase changes that they undergo. He is, for example, one of the best people I know in the area of the liquid protein phase, a relatively new development, and its consequences for crystal nucleation and growth. He has studied under George Benedek at MIT, the master of the field, and I know that George also has a high regard for his abilities.

Neer's primary experimental technique, as you might guess from his Benedek tutelage, is light scattering. He is, however, also an accomplished theoretician and mathematician. Neer is very bright, articulate, and intense about his research. I have great regard for his work, we commonly cite it, and I think him among the best, most promising young scientists about today. My feeling is that he fits best among physicists, but serves as a valuable interface with practicing structural biologists and biochemists.

I certainly would recommend Neer to you and feel certain that you would not be disappointed by his performance. He has a career of important achievement ahead of him as well as a history of it behind him.

Sincerely,

Alexander McPherson, Professor
Molecular Biology and Biochemistry