

THE JAMES FRANCK INSTITUTE

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
5640 SOUTH ELLIS AVENUE
CHICAGO · ILLINOIS 60637

Thomas A. Witten
Professor of Physics

TELEPHONE: (773) 702-0947, -7180
INTERNET: t-witten@uchicago.edu
FAX: (773) 702-2172, -4180

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Professor Rob de Ruyter van Steveninck
Biocomplexity Institute
Indiana University
Swain Hall West 117
Bloomington, IN 47405-7105

Dear Prof. de Ruyter van Steveninck:

I'm pleased to add this supporting letter for Sascha Hilgenfeldt's application for a junior faculty position with you. My interaction with Sascha comes from many discussions during his visits to Chicago since 1997. Our greatest common interest was in single bubble sonoluminescence, especially the puzzling magnetic field effects demonstrated by my colleague Woowon Kang. Sascha taught me a lot of about the subtleties of sonoluminescence that I had not realized. More recently, Sascha told us about his three-dimensional empirical generalization of Von Neumann's foam geometry law. He gave a clear and articulate talk on this work. This work seemed fresh, creative and useful. I was really intrigued by Sascha's latest experiments, in which acoustic streaming around microscopic bubbles and solid posts is made to destroy vesicles and propel particles from place to place. Sascha's broad publication record shows that he has the ability and drive to make an impact in many problems. In my discussions with him, Sascha's explanations were always well-informed, direct and sensible. He has already begun to supervise students productively. He strikes me as a very good choice for a junior faculty position.

Yours sincerely



T. A. Witten



As knowledge increases, life is improved.