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To Chair, Search Committee:

This letter is in support of Dr. Mariappan Vairapandi application for a tenure track faculty position

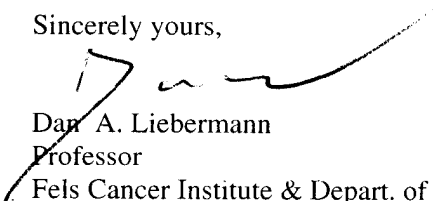
Dr Vairapandi has been an Associate Scientist in my laboratory from 1996 to 2000. During this time I have known Dr. Vairapandi as a very hard working and sincere scientist who is adamant to pursue an independent scientific career. He is bright, innovative and has provided ample evidence of being able to conduct independent high quality research.

Dr. Vairapandi's work on the role Gadd45 proteins (i.e. Gadd45a,b,g also termed GAdd45, MyD118, & CR6, respectively) play in growth suppression and apoptosis, via interactions with other cellular proteins implicated in cell cycle regulation and the response of cells to stress (i.e. PCNA, p21 and cdc2/cyclinB1), has provided important new insights to this exciting field.. These studies have resulted in 5 excellent publications that have been published in high impact Journals which include Oncogene and JBC.

Dr. Vairapandi has significantly contributed also to the field of DNA demethylation. His work has led to the identification of the complex process of DNA demethylation as a mechanism similar to "Base Excision Repair" (BER) in DNA repair. In addition, he has shown that this activity is associated with PCNA and p300.

There is no doubt in my mind that the important scientific contributions of Dr. Vairapandi to the field of stress responses, including DNA demethylation and repair, and his prospects to obtain independent funding for this research, make him highly suitable for a tenure track position in your department.

Sincerely yours,



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