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Biocomplexity Faculty Search Committee  
c/o Prof. Rob de Ruyter van Steveninck  
Biocomplexity Institute  
Indiana University  
Swain Hall West 117  
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To Whom It May Concern:

I write to recommend Dr. **Toby Allen** of Weill Cornell Medical College for a tenure-track faculty position. I know Dr. Allen's fine work in computational chemistry from "afar," meaning from the scientific literature and from meetings of the Biophysical Society. He has made significant contributions to understanding the energetics of ion permeation through membrane channels, as well as to fundamental understanding of the structure, dynamics and stabilization energy for the prototypical gramicidin channel. Dr. Allen's wide ranging experience makes him well prepared for approaching a number of biophysical problems from a computational and theoretical point of view. Additionally, and perhaps his most importantly, he has helped to develop methods that increasingly will "put molecular dynamics to the test," i.e., that will provide benchmarks to serve as standards on which studies of more complex problems be based. As greater computational resources and refinement of interaction potentials make possible the simulation of increasingly complex processes, it is important that molecular dynamics be thoroughly tested on systems that are small, and yet possess the same ingredients and challenges as larger biomolecular systems. Dr. Allen is well prepared to direct an independent research program, and he will continue to make major contributions in these areas.

In discussions with Dr. Allen, I have noted his clarity of thinking and depth of scientific insight. His presentations are logical and easy to grasp, leading me to suspect that he will be a good teacher. He is personable, outgoing and well liked—qualities that will make him a good colleague. I recommend him highly for a faculty position.

Yours sincerely,

Roger E. Koeppe II  
University Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry