

January 17, 2004

Rob de Ruyter van Steveninck,
Chair, Biocomplexity Search Committee
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Dear Dr. de Ruyter van Steveninck,

Clemens Wagner

It gives me great pleasure to write to you on behalf of Dr. Clemens Wagner. I have known Clemens and followed his work for some 10 years, ever since he commenced graduate studies with my colleague of many years standing at the Biozentrum in Basel, Dr. Dieter Walz. I was so impressed with his accomplishments in Dieter's lab that I was eager to have him work with me on oscillatory problems that had been occupying my attention for a long time. However, since I am Emeritus I could not offer him facilities myself, but I arranged for him to work in the laboratory of Dr. Gloria Tannenbaum at the Children's Hospital in Montreal. Gloria and I had previously been discussing her remarkable studies on oscillations in the level of growth hormone in the circulation of the rat with a view to attempting a mathematical model, and I realised that Clemens would be the ideal person to develop such a model. In the event I must say that I count myself privileged to have had the opportunity to collaborate with him in this undertaking. After carrying out an exhaustive study of the literature and the relevant techniques in nonlinear dynamics available to him, Clemens developed a biochemically and biophysically feasible model which turned out to be most successful in terms of its ability not only to fit observed behavior but to predict new behavior and suggest further experiments.

Clemens is an extremely serious, hardworking, and able young scientist, extraordinarily well-informed in his chosen field, and self-critical as well as critical of the work of others. He has a penetrating intellect and will think very deeply about problems he is engaged on, after which he is able to present his current views clearly and with considerable insight. He brings an armamentarium of mathematical and computing tools to bear on his work.

As a person Clemens is pleasant, friendly, and generous with his time in helping others. I have always found it a delight to discuss issues with him, and most rewarding to delve into the intricacies of some system together with him. In my view, he will inevitably prove to be a most valuable asset to any research team he joins. He has my very strongest recommendation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Roy Caplan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

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