

The University of Kansas Medical Center

School of Medicine
Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology

Prof. Rob de Ruyter
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Dear Dr. de Ruyter and Colleagues

February 14, 2004

Rusty Lansford, Ph.D. first came to my attention while visiting Scott Fraser's laboratory at CalTech. Spending one hour with this bright, enthusiastic, young scientist left no doubt why Dr. Fraser holds Rusty in such high regard. My initially high opinion of Rusty's talents has grown significantly in the course of several visits to CalTech and during Rusty's many visits to my lab.

Indeed, based on my high regard for Rusty Lansford I asked him to be a funded collaborator on our successful renewal application for Project 4 of NIH Program Project Grant HL52613 (awarded Jan, 2001). This arrangement has proven so useful that I asked Rusty to serve as a contractor on my recent RO1 award. His contribution are integral our project entitled "Computational Biology of Vascular Cell Behavior." Rusty's provides expertise in the use and construction of virus-based vectors, especially vectors that result in the expression of cell fate-specific fluorescent reporter tags. Rusty couples his creative cutting edge molecular biology with incredible talents in the use of quantitative light microscopy for analysis of collective biological motion.

From personal first-hand observation I can certify that Rusty is an extremely dedicated hard-working scientist. He has a first class mind that is both incisively and creative. He appears to be fearless in tackling huge biological and technical problems —avian transgenics and high-speed multi-spectral fluorescence microscopy being prime examples of his pursuits. Based entirely on direct interactions, I rank Rusty in the top 5% of young scientists that I have known during my entire career at the Univ. of Pittsburgh, Harvard Med. School, UCSD, Univ. of Virginia, MUSC and the University of Kansas. Rusty has the intelligence, stamina, enthusiasm and insight to be a major international-caliber scientist. His imagination and hard work ethic will virtually guarantee a creative independent career. A ready smile, good humor and a genuine willingness to help others characterize Rusty's personal manner.

I hereby tender my wholehearted, enthusiastic recommendation that Rusty Lansford be strongly considered for a faculty position at Indiana University. Should you provide Rusty Lansford with this opportunity, he will repay you with hard work, exciting science, and leadership in the study of complex biological systems. Please call me if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely yours,



Charles Little
Professor of Cell Biology