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Dear Sir or Madam,

It is with great enthusiasm that I strongly write this letter of recommendation in support of Mr. Balint Dudas. Mr. Dudas is an extremely talented student and promising scientist who will be earning his MsC diploma in "Engineer of Info-Bionics" at Pazmany Peter Catholic University in Budapest, Hungary. I had the pleasure of meeting and mentoring Balint when he joined my lab after having won a fellowship from the Tempus Public Foundation.

Before I go any further, let me introduce myself and provide you with my qualifications. I am a Distinguished Professor and the founding John K. Vries Chair of the Department of Computational and Systems Biology at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine, as well as the Co-founding Director of the Joint PhD program in Computational & Systems Biology offered jointly by the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University. In addition, I am the Associate Director of the University of Pittsburgh Drug Discovery Institute and the Principal Investigator/Director of the National Institute of Health (NIH)-funded National Center for Multiscale Modeling of Biological Systems ([MMBioS](http://MMBioS.org)). I am an Elected member of the European Molecular Biology Organization ([EMBO](http://EMBO.org)). I have authored/co-authored 291+ publications in scientific journals, which have received more than 19,865 citations (H index=71; i10 index 230). My research areas include computational and mathematical biology, molecular biophysics, structural biology, bioinformatics, molecular and systems pharmacology, biochemistry, and polymer science.

During Balint's time in the Bahar Lab, he has contributed to the development of new tools. In particular, he worked on normal mode analysis, (bridging between coarse-grained and full atomic normal mode analysis) for modeling of the dynamics of proteins, and the development of an elastic network model for membranes towards improving the prediction of membrane protein dynamics. Not only did he demonstrate his technical skills and the required knowledge to work on this project, but he also improved them in the 3 months visiting my lab.

His visit also helped us to create a collaboration between our lab, and that of his mentor, Dr. Erika Balog. Additionally, our two labs will also coordinate with Dr. David Perahia, the Research Director at the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Cachan in Paris, France. This collaboration currently has 2 manuscripts in preparation in which he is a co-author.

Balint is highly self-motivated, organized, and innovative. I was deeply impressed by his capacity and creativity during his short visit to the University of Pittsburgh and would not hesitate to offer him a position in my lab, had he stayed in the United States. He is intelligent, an extremely pleasant person to interact with, and has outstanding interpersonal and communication skills. He is meticulous, hard-working, dedicated, and rigorous.

In closing, I would like to give my strongest recommendation to Mr. Balint Dudas. He was truly a joy not only for me, but for also my lab members to interact with. I look forward to witnessing the future accomplishments of this brilliant student and promising scientist.

Please feel free to contact me should you require any additional information or have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Bahar', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ivet Bahar, PhD
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