

## 4.2 Second Reference

**Name and Title:** Prof. Andrew Todd

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**Date of association with the candidate - From/To:** August 2013 - January 2014

**Position:** Deputy course co-ordinator, project supervisor

**Student Rank:** upper 10%

**Comment:** I have known Mark for the last 2 years, while he has been in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years of his degree course in Neuroscience at the University of Glasgow. In addition, I supervised the practical project that he carried out in the first semester of his 4<sup>th</sup> year.

Mark came a very close 2<sup>nd</sup> out of a class of 39 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year Neuroscience course, and did particularly well in the end of year exams, achieving an average “A” score. He is therefore clearly an extremely able student.

His project involved carrying out multiple-labelling immunocytochemistry on sections of mouse and rat spinal cord, in order to identify neurons that were enriched with glycine, and were therefore likely to be glycinergic. During the course of the project he prepared tissue and performed the immunoreaction, and then analysed the resulting confocal images using Neurolucida for Confocal software. He showed a very clear understanding of the topic, and was quick to master new techniques. The results he came up with were interesting, and to some extent surprising, since his interpretation did not entirely agree with results that I had published several years ago. I was particularly impressed that he was sufficiently confident to argue his case. His data suggest that various sub-populations among the inhibitory interneurons in laminae I-III of the dorsal horn can use GABA and glycine as co-transmitters. He was certainly among the top students I have supervised over the last 15 years. He was dedicated, very hard-working and completely reliable. He wrote a very good dissertation with minimal help.

Mark is a highly articulate and intelligent individual, who got on well with his colleagues and other lab members. He is keen to pursue a career in Neuroscience. I believe that he has great promise, and I strongly recommend him as a PhD student.

