

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

I am interested in the sessional instructor position for PHYS 102 - Physics for the Life Sciences II course to be taught on Surrey campus in the Fall 2018 term. As an active researcher in biological physics over ten years, I consider myself an ideal candidate for this position.

Many life sciences students are having trouble seeing the relevance of physics in biological sciences, mostly because both disciplines tend to think in their boxes. As someone who has extensively been using physical concepts and tools in her research to shed a light on biological phenomena, I acquired appreciation of each discipline's unique way of approaching scientific problems. I demonstrated my ability to swiftly cross the boundary between physics and biology in the lab course I taught at the University of Pittsburgh in 2010, which was also designed mostly for life sciences students and included experiments demonstrating physics of human vision and working of an electrocardiogram. My teaching skills were recognized by Dr. Russell Clark, the instructor of the associated Introductory Physics course and a physics education researcher, who nominated me for the Department of Physics and Astronomy Excellence in Teaching Award.

I have also given a well-received guest lecture on bacterial motility and chemotaxis in PHYS 347 – Introduction to Biological Physics course that my mentor Nancy Forde has been teaching in 2015. I prepared that lecture paying great attention to incorporating some effective teaching approaches into my lecture such as motivating the scientific question before diving into physical models and using visual help whenever needed. Thanks to its success, I have been invited by Nancy to give the same lecture the year after.

I consider teaching PHYS 102 in the next semester as another valuable experience where I can cultivate my teaching skills further. For your information, I am a permanent resident.

Yours Sincerely,

Tuba Altindal