



Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

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August 30, 2011

Mr. Josh Greenberg
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
630 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2550
New York, NY, 10111

RE: Letter of support for Dr. Wilson's proposal to the Sloan Foundation

This letter confirms my support to the proposal being put forward by Mozilla Foundation and Software Carpentry.

A student of mine (Milton Ribeiro) and I took Dr. Wilson's Software Carpentry course in 2009 after my PhD student, Josie Hughes, told me how great and useful this course was (she took the Software Carpentry course in 2008). In fact Dr. Wilson's Software Carpentry course exceeded my expectation: I learnt a great deal. Indeed, having graduated in 1992, my programming skills were obsolete. Therefore Dr. Wilson's Software Carpentry course was more than needed to update me with the current computer challenges that graduate students are facing. The course provided a series of useful tools and information that are not found in any textbook. Furthermore it presented a comprehensive introduction to programming in Python and other computer languages.

I believe that this proposal of offering workshops (two-day bootcamps) and online material your Carpentry course will be highly valuable to the scientific community. It will serve a wider group of users. For sure it will be the first website source that I will give to all my graduate students. I would also require that all my graduate students as well as many other graduate students and postdoctoral fellows from my department (Ecology & Evolutionary Biology), Forestry and Geography to take these workshops.

Therefore I hope that this proposal will be successful: I strongly support its funding.

Yours truly,

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