BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

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Ron Kikinis, M.D.
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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Dear Sir or Madam:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Nicolas Rannou, who worked as a Research Fellow at the Surgical Planning Laboratory (SPL), at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA, from April - September 2009, on his “end of studies” internship regarding parameter space exploration and fast visualization tools for EM Segmentation and MRI Bias Field Correction. The SPL is one of the leading institutions in the field of 3D image segmentation, surface and volume rendering, virtual reality exploration inside the body, anatomical atlases, and special visualization software for flow and surgery/therapy planning.

Mr. Rannou came here from the “Institut Superieur de l'Electronique et du Numérique” and joined our Neuroimage Analysis Center, which aims to develops image processing and analysis techniques for basic and clinical neurosciences. During his time here, Mr. Rannou familiarized himself with the 3D Slicer, our in-house, open-source software and the EM Segmentation module developed by Kilian Pohl. Once familiar with Slicer’s existing frameworks and the EM Segmentation method, he significantly contributed to ongoing research at the SPL, working on the development of tools to enhance segmentation. His project focused on developing tools to correct the bias in MRIs, integrating them as part of the segmentation process. In addition, he developed tools to give the user convenient methods to segment images using the previous framework. He successfully realized and tested this concept by implementing a framework with additional functionality. This implementation was systematically evaluated and the result of his research has already been integrated into the Slicer 3 base version.

Mr. Rannou integrated himself very well into our research group and quickly became a highly respected member of the team. He is creative and hardworking, adds an amiable presence to the working atmosphere, and fulfilled all tasks competently with eagerness and diligence. His outstanding performance and the quality of his work have contributed significantly to our laboratory’s research and clinical applications, and reflect his talent and energy. I have been impressed by his great perseverance and drive, as well as his innovative ideas and the results he has achieved.

We enjoyed having Nicolas Rannou at the Surgical Planning Laboratory. His work is excellent and his contributions to our discussions and research noteworthy. I am pleased to have the opportunity to wholeheartedly recommend Mr. Rannou. If you have any questions regarding his stay at the SPL, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Ron Kikinis, MD