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**DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY**

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Dear Dr. Drake,

I am happy to submit a minireview, ***Reintroducing mothur: 10 years later***, for your consideration. The manuscript describes the trajectory of the mothur software package over the past ten years. My intention is to communicate the lessons we have learned and how they are transferrable to other undertaking a long scientific journey in one area as I have.

As you know, the original paper describing mothur was published in AEM in December of 2009. It has gone on to be cited more than 8,800 times and is the most cited paper in AEM history. I can’t underscore enough what an impact this paper and others I have published in AEM have had on my career and those of those in the field of microbial ecology. I was delighted to learn from Dr. Andrew McBain that he would be happy to serve as the editor for this manuscript.

I am optimistic that it will be favorably considered for publication.

Sincerely,



Patrick D. Schloss, PhD

Professor