

December 1st, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

Alexander Rosenberg Johansen came to me at my department (then [REDACTED], now [REDACTED]) at the Technical University of Denmark in the autumn of 2018 looking for interesting research challenges. He immediately came up with numerous ideas on modifying recent language technologies to be applicable to protein sequences and prediction tasks. To carry out his many suggestions he either collaborated with my PhD student [REDACTED] or independently supervised M.Sc. students with no prior research experience. This work has recently led to two students concluding their projects with the following strong manuscript submissions: “*Prediction of GPI-Anchored proteins with pointer neural networks*” and “*Predicting Recombinant Gene Expression with Deep Learning Techniques*”. Alexander’s most impactful work in our lab has been as a co-first author with [REDACTED] on language modeling of proteins. In this work Alexander has independently defined a methodical research direction and helped with execution – leading to two meeting abstract publications and an upcoming journal submission named “*Language modeling for biological sequences – curated datasets and baselines*”. I am very impressed with Alexander’s inventiveness and his ability to understand the unique challenges faced in bioinformatics and how they differ from priors in the field of natural language processing.

Throughout our collaboration, Alexander has displayed leadership skills. In the management of the projects of the M.Sc. students, he has kept a tight ship with weekly meetings, setting and keeping deadlines, and making sure every party is always up to date on project details. He even does team building activities with the students and arranges events for them to present our work. The success of multiple student projects turning into journal submissions is far from the norm and a testimony to Alexander’s well rounded academic capacity, technical abilities, and the effort he has put into these projects.

Alexander Rosenberg Johansen would be a tremendous asset to any research department and I give him fullest support for his Fellowship application.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Section for [REDACTED],
Technical University of Denmark