



164 Ashdale Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M4L 2Y9
+1 (416) 435 9779
gwwilson@software-carpentry.org
<http://software-carpentry.org>
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To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Dr. Hong Qin's proposal "Emergence of cellular aging from gene networks"

I am writing to express support for the training component of the above-mentioned NSF Career proposal by Dr. Hong Qin. Computing is as important to 21st Century science as telescopes were in the 19th Century and particle accelerators in the 20th. However, most scientists are still never taught how to design, build, maintain, validate, and share software productively. Software Carpentry seeks to address this by running intensive skills workshops for researchers from a wide variety of disciplines, in which we introduce the core concepts of version control, task automation, testing, and modular program development.

We have recently launched a new initiative to broaden the reach of our training to include groups that are traditionally under-represented in computing, and the sciences more generally. In June 2013, we ran our first workshop aimed specifically at women in science and engineering in Boston; 120 women took part, and we are already planning follow-on events for the fall. We would like to start offering similar workshops targeting minority students in order to help accelerate their careers, and believe that partnering with Dr. Qin and Spelman College could be a significant component of this. More specifically, should funding for travel costs be made available, we will commit to providing volunteer instructors for one or more more two-day workshops at Spelman in 2013-14, and to follow up with post-workshop mentoring online. We therefore urge you to consider Dr. Qin's proposal favorably.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory V. Wilson".

Dr. Gregory V. Wilson
Project Lead, Software Carpentry
Mozilla Foundation