Dear Dr. Mobley and Dr. Chodera,

I’m writing as the editor of the Journal of Computer Aided Molecular Design (JCAMD) to express my continued enthusiasm for the SAMPL blind prediction challenge and my support for your plans to continue and expand the challenge via the proposed work, “Advancing predictive physical modeling through focused development of model systems to drive new modeling innovations.” Previous SAMPL challenges have provided real benefit to the physical modeling community, and have taught us a great deal of relevance to methods for predicting protein-ligand binding, as evidenced by the ongoing interest of pharmaceutical companies in these events. I am convinced your proposed work will do the same.

As you are aware, JCAMD has in the past supported the SAMPL challenges by producing periodic special issues which focus on each iteration of the challenge. For example, we are currently completing construction of the SAMPL5 special issue. This letter also serves to express my willingness to continue with these special issues, coordinating with you to have a yearly special issue of JCAMD focusing on SAMPL. Participants would, as they have in the past, submit their papers by a specified deadline, and we would coordinate reviews and then publication in JCAMD, assuming the work is technically sound.

Previous JCAMD special issues on SAMPL have been, in my view, well received, highly cited, and a service to the field. As one indication, the top ten SAMPL publications have already all been cited more than 50 times, per Google Scholar.

I look forward to our continuing collaboration on the SAMPL challenges.

Sincerely,