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Paris, 17 July 2008

**To whom it may concern:**  
**Letter of recommandation for Dr. Julien Colomb**

I am very pleased to write a letter of recommendation on behalf of Dr. Julien Colomb, who has been working in my group as a post-doctoral fellow since January 2007. I proposed to Dr. Julien Colomb to take over a project. He quickly made it his own, bringing new ideas and writing an application. He obtained a fellowship for one year and a half from the Swiss National Science Foundation. Julien Colomb is presently supported by the lab.

During his stay in our lab, Dr. Julien Colomb worked on the appetitive learning in *Drosophila*. He first developed a new paradigm to test fly sugar motivation, a paradigm that appeared to be essential in this study. By drug application, he succeeded in showing that long-term memory was formed after one session of odour-sugar association. He also confirmed previous work of competitors on radish, a gene involved in learning and memory, bringing new important insights to this emerging field. Julien's careful study also led to a surprising finding as he showed that *Tequila*, a gene orthologue to neurotrypsin involved in aversive long term memory formation, is involved in the response to sugar, a fact overlooked in previous studies. Julien is now working on the cognitive aspects of odour-sugar association, a very promising project he developed.

During the time Dr. Julien Colomb has spent in our lab, he showed great motivation in his work. He succeeded in learning new skills from other lab members very quickly, certainly helped by his previous training in behavioural experiments. He also had witty ideas, of which everybody is taking advantage. He is very independent in the design and performance of the experiments. I have thus no doubt about the quality of the work Dr. Julien Colomb is doing in our lab. In addition, he actively took part in our lab meetings (bringing his helpful neuroanatomical knowledge) by asking numerous interesting questions. He is now integrated in our group and I am sure it has been of great advantage for us to have him in the team.

In summary, I consider Dr. Julien Colomb to be a highly qualified, independent and trustworthy scientist. I am sure he has a very good potential to perform a successful scientific career. I wish him all the best for his future.

Thomas Preat