September 23, 2014

National Science Foundation

Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering

4201 Wilson Boulevard

Arlington, Virginia 22230

Re: Support Letter for Niranjan Balasubramanian

CRII: III: Open-domain Knowledge Extraction

Dear Committee Members,

As Chair of the Department of Computer Science at Stony Brook University, I strongly support the CRII proposal submitted by Assistant Professor Niranjan Balasubramanian. Additionally, I certify that Niranjan Balasubramanian meets the eligibility criteria for the program and that he will be starting his first two years of a tenure-track position at Stony Brook University in January 2015.

Balasubramanian received his PhD from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and prior to joining Stony Brook served as a post-doctoral researcher in the Turing Center. Balasubramanian’s research interests focus on two broad areas Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Information Retrieval.

**Prof. Balasubramanian’s Research Plan**

The research proposed by Balasubramanian recognizes that information extraction (IE) systems are critical for extracting and organizing useful information from the massive amounts of textual information sources on the web. Open IE systems extract every binary relation mentioned in text without any notion of salience or structure.

The goal of this project is to investigate scalable methods for producing high-quality open-domain knowledge about events that can be used by IE and summarization systems to extract all the relevant information into a rich representation. Diverse communities will benefit from scalable IE systems that are guided by domain-specific background knowledge.

**CS Department: Our Commitment to Niranjan Balasubramanian**

In addition to the heavy involvement of students in this research project, over 50 faculty members in our department are available to consult with Dr. Balasubramanian. To maximize these relationships, the department committed to Balasubramanian’s professional development by appointing senior professors as his mentors.

Balasubramanian’s research plan is perfectly aligned with the department’s research goals, and we are committed to providing outstanding institutional support. I wholeheartedly support his research vision related to this CRII proposal.

Sincerely,



Arie E. Kaufman

Distinguished Professor and Chairman