Geoffrey Stone, PhD

Research Assistant Professor

Dept of Microbiology and Immunology

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Miami, FL 33136

23rd April, 2009

Dear Geoff,

This letter is to confirm my support and that of the Center for Computational Science Bioinformatics Program for your planned project to test the early stages of HIV infection using gene expression microarray and microRNA array technology. Your experimental approach will allow you to focus in on those genes that are involved in HIV-mediated anergy, and there is an urgent need for a deeper understanding of the role of miRNAs in this process. Your past work has already provided vital clues, and you have recognized that it is imperative to follow those through for improved diagnosis and treatment of HIV.

The Center for Computational Science (CCS) at the University of Miami expands the University and region’s resources for computational science research and education. Our high-performance computing (HPC) and scientific software engineering (SSE) cores support our five research programs that together span the life sciences, physical sciences, and the high-tech world. Of relevance to this proposal are our Bioinformatics and our Data Mining Programs, where our faculty have over 10 years experience in the genetic and genomic data analysis including gene expression, gene regulation, and SNP functionality analysis. We will work with you and your team on the best analytical strategies for your data by providing training, expertise, and much of the necessary software for your analysis. It will be our pleasure to assist you in any way possible for the success of your proposed project.

I look forward to working with you and your team on your bioinformatics needs for this project.

Yours sincerely,

Sawsan Khuri, PhD

Lead Bioinformatics Scientist, Center for Computational Science

and Assistant Research Professor,

The Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation Department of Human Genetics,

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine,

1120 NW 14th Street, CRB 1188

Miami, FL 33136