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Dated: May 18, 2011

Alexander D. Diehl, Ph.D.
The Jacobs Neurological Institute
School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
University at Buffalo, The State University of New York
New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics & Life Sciences
701 Ellicott Street
Buffalo, New York 14203

Dear Alex,

I would like to offer my enthusiastic support for your NHGRI grant proposal on **"The Cell Ontology Project"** As co-PI of the NSF funded Gramene database project (www.gramene.org) and leader of the Plant Ontology Project (www.plantontology.org), I have been very pleased to see the progress being made on the Cell Ontology, and, as you know, we are happy to collaborate with you on developing terms for plant cell types in the Plant Ontology that the Cell Ontology can add as part of the extended ontology. Plant Ontology is probably the only anatomy and development ontology that covers multispecies representation from the plant kingdom. I am also pleased to see that you are planning to develop a Cell Type Knowledgebase, and we will be happy to collaborate with you in that effort as well to ensure that you may find and link to relevant plant resources relating to cell types.

We understand that your project will have the necessary bioinformatics support and will work with us on the data sets and data formats we specify as they mature for integration into the Cell Ontology. We are pleased to know that unless otherwise specified, you will be the primary contact person to work with us on this collaboration. We should note that our projects collaboration with your project can only be guaranteed through the end of our current round of NSF funding for Gramene project (ends 09/30/2011) and for Plant Ontology (ends 02/14/2013). Beyond these dates the collaboration and data exchange will depend on the respective project renewals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pankaj".

Pankaj Jaiswal