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David Sheinberg, Ph.D.  
Search Committee Chair  
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Providence, RI.

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Dear Professor Sheinberg:

It is my pleasure to support Dr. Sachin Talathi's application for a faculty position at Brown University's Department of Neuroscience. I have known Sachin for about 7 years as a colleague working in the area of neuroengineering with applications in epilepsy dynamics and control. We first met when he came in search of a postdoctoral position to George Mason University, where I was working as a Research Associate at the time. We have continued to meet regularly at the annual meetings of the American Epilepsy Society and the Society for Neuroscience and often discuss topics of mutual interest.

Sachin is a highly motivated young researcher with diverse interests and strong scientific fundamentals. This has enabled him to enter new fields and become quickly productive while leveraging his previous experience to come up with creative solutions to research problems. Unlike many scientists who tend to pigeonhole themselves based on perceived limitations or practical constraints, Sachin is always gung ho about trying new things and accumulating experience. He has also developed and taught a class in computational neurodynamics that would be of interest to basic scientists, engineers, and clinicians alike.

Sachin has published important work in modeling synaptic plasticity in neuronal networks and in the dynamical evolution of epilepsy in a chronic animal model. My impression is that he is interested in leveraging his experience in these areas to try to understand how models of brain dynamics can be used to predict pathological neural states and their response to therapies like electrical or optogenetic stimulation. This is an important area at the interface of experimental and theoretical neuroscience that is receiving increased attention from federal agencies like NIH and NSF. Sachin could further benefit from NIH's policy of encouraging scientists in the early stage investigator category.

Sachin has a rare combination of skills in experimental and computational neuroscience. Most researchers in either of these areas tend to seek out collaborators to complement their skills. Sachin has positioned himself to become productive in systems neuroscience as an independent researcher. He would therefore be able to enter into collaborations from a position of strength. I think this is important for a young scientist in a tenure-track position.

In short, I consider Sachin to be a rising star in the application of computational systems neuroscience to epilepsy therapy. I am confident that he will make stellar contributions as a faculty at Brown. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance in your evaluation.

With my compliments,

Sridhar Sunderam, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor