



May 2, 2012

**Subject: Recommendation Wilson Truccolo**

I am very happy to be able to recommend **Dr. Wilson Truccolo** as a candidate for a faculty position. I have known Wilson from his time during his graduate studies of 5-6 years at the Center for Complex Systems & Brain Sciences, where I was a faculty member.

I consider Wilson to be amongst the top 2% of graduate students of the Center since my arrival in 1996. This is noteworthy, since the Center has generated many successful graduates and researchers becoming leading figures in Science. Our graduates have succeeded in high-profile institutions such as NIH, Salk Institute, Swartz Center, and others. Wilson's scientific interest has covered a wide field of system neuroscience, which explains why he acquired hands-on knowledge of techniques from fields ranging from random processes, theory of nonlinear dynamics, computational and theoretical neuroscience, but also moved on to learn new techniques in electrophysiology during his postdoc. After having finished his PhD, Wilson has developed into a well-rounded scientist with profound competence in random processes with regard to analysis and modeling. The reason I rate him above most of the other Center graduates is his ability to think beyond the horizon imposed by the techniques he masters. Such is a quality, which forms the basis of creativity in any researcher and is the origin of innovation. Wilson is able to view a technique or phenomenon or simply a thought in the context of a larger question. He is sufficiently skilled to transfer this insight to the other field, hence has the ability to translate. This is why I consider him to be able to grow into one of the scientific future leaders in the field of computational neuroscience.

I have not followed his research in detail once he left the Center, but have met him several times at various conferences since 2002, where we had a chance to update each other. I have been very impressed by the breadth and depth of how his research developed, which is well illustrated by his publication list with a significant number of high impact publications (including Nature Neuroscience, Journal of Neuroscience, Brain). This is also underwritten by the NIH grant awarded to him as PI and the superb grant activity over the last years, as well as the large number of invited talks.

In terms of oral and presentation skills, Wilson is eloquent, a good and clear speaker and will make undoubtedly a superb teacher. His social skills are very good; he is easy going and well liked by his colleagues. In brief, I would more than welcome him in our own institute as a fellow colleague and can only express my highest recommendations for him.

Please do not hesitate in contacting me if there are any further questions.

Sincerely,

Viktor Jirsa  
Director of Research, CNRS