



Dear Professor Shainberg,

I am writing this letter in support of Dr. Tony Vladusich. I have known Tony for about five years, just prior to his stay as a post-doctoral student in the CNS Department at Boston University, and continuing through till the present. During this time, he attended my research seminar on Computational Neuroscience, and also we spent much time in a lively and productive scientific dialogue that covered a wide range of scientific subjects, including his special area of expertise in the area of brightness perception. Although I have had a long term interest in this area, I have greatly benefited from Tony's deep insights and creative new ways of thinking about the neural and psychophysical bases of brightness perception. I have found his ideas in this area, particularly with regard to the representational bases of brightness perception, to be potentially revolutionary, and to have been deeply thought out and pursued through a wide variety of techniques, including psychophysics, fMRI, and computational modeling. His extremely broad range of skills, spanning these three areas, coupled with a creative approach to this fundamental problem of systems level visual perception, place him in a unique category with respect to other young investigators at his level of development, and I expect to see important contributions from him in the future. I strongly recommend him for a faculty position, since his keen intellectual abilities, his excellent research preparation, and his out-going personality provide an ideal combination for beginning an academic career at the faculty level. His excellent technical background and intelligence, which alone would qualify for him consideration, are complimented by the evidence that I have seen of truly original and focused thinking over a period of many years, which to me is the most important predictor of his future success as an independent scientist and teacher.

Please feel free to call or email me if there are any further questions.

Sincerely,

Eric L. Schwartz

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