



Centre For Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute Of Science
Bangalore 560 012, INDIA

Telephone: +91-80-23600985, 22932506, 22932635, 23608661
Fax: +91-80-2360 1428
E-mail: nvjoshi@ces.iisc.ernet.in

Prof. N.V. Joshi

April 27, 2012

To

The Co-ordinator,
Engineering and Applied Science Postgraduate Admissions Office
Aston University, Birmingham, B4 7ET
United Kingdom

Dear Madam / Sir,

It is a pleasure for me to write this letter of recommendation supporting Shilpi Samantray's application for admission to the research program in Applied Chemistry in your University.

I have known Shilpi Samantray from the time she joined our center on a project of my collaborator and colleague (Dr. T. V. Ramachandra) in August 2010. I have had several opportunities to interact with her and for discussing her work.

Shilpi Samantray is very competent, intelligent and hardworking. She is cheerful and resourceful, and carries out the responsibilities entrusted to her with maturity and sincerity. Her grasp of the subject is good and she has demonstrated an innovative approach to her work. I would also like to emphasize her excellent motivation, and keenness to learn new subjects. She is very enthusiastic about the subject and is quick to grasp them.

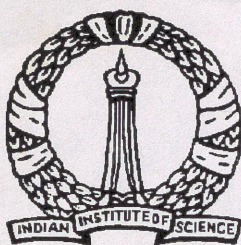
Shilpi Samantray is articulate, and has good command over written and spoken English. She is helpful by nature, and works extremely well as a member of a group. In summary, her performance at our center has demonstrated her ability and thus her potential for successfully completing the research program in Applied Chemistry that she has applied for at the Aston University.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if more details are required.
Thank you and With Best regards

N. V. Joshi



Dr. N.V. Joshi
Centre for Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore - 560 012, INDIA



**Centre For Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute Of Science
Bangalore 560 012, INDIA**

Telephone: +91-80-23600985, 22932506, 22932635, 23608661

Fax: +91-80-2360 1428

E-mail: nvjoshi@ces.iisc.ernet.in

Prof. N.V. Joshi

August 21, 2012

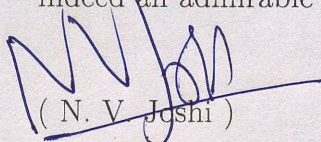
To Whomsoever It May Concern

It is a pleasure to recommend Dr. Ms Jayshree Vencatesan for the 'Protect The Tiger' category of the 'Earth Hero' awards of the Royal Bank of Scotland. Her decade-long untiring efforts toward conservation of wildlife and biodiversity, have convincingly demonstrated how the complex interlinked issues of development, conservation, livelihoods, inclusiveness etc. can be most effectively handled in a win-win manner.

I have known Dr. Jayshree Vencatesan from the time she was a graduate student. I have had many opportunities to interact with her during her tenure as a 'Prof. S. Ramaseshan Science Writing Fellow' at the Current Science, a leading fortnightly multidisciplinary journal. Her article always had this unique combination of basic research and implications for conservation and development. In the subsequent years, I have closely followed her numerous activities and initiatives towards Environmental Conservation, Environmental Education and Development-Conservation linkages, and I have always been greatly impressed by her accomplishments on the many fronts. Her 'leading-from-the-front' approach has made her organization, 'Care Earth' a much admired and acclaimed one.

Dr. Jayshree Vencatesan's direct contribution towards biodiversity conservation, wildlife conservation, and particularly tiger conservation is noteworthy in her enlightend and skilled approach. Her extraordinary motivation, dedication, hard work and professional competence has enabled her to garner support of the many different kinds of stakeholders - from the forest-dwelling tribals to rural communities to high government officials to captains of Industry. Her painstaking efforts over many years have certainly made a major difference in convincing the local communities the need for conservation (tiger conservation) and in participating wholeheartedly for its success.

In summary, I would like to emphasize that Dr. Ms Jayshree Vencatesan richly deserves this honour, and her being selected for this award would not only be a recognition of her work, but would also go a long way in upholding the conviction of the communities that her enlightened approach towards tiger conservation ensuring the protection of interests of the local people is indeed an admirable one, as judged by the international community.


(N. V. Joshi)



**Centre For Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute Of Science**
Bangalore 560 012, INDIA

Telephone: +91-80-23600985, 22932506, 22932635, 23608661

Fax: +91-80-2360 1428

E-mail: nvjoshi@ces.iisc.ernet.in

Dr. N.V. Joshi, FASc
Associate Professor

September 29, 2013

To: Carlsbergfondet , Kbenhavn, Denmark

It is a pleasure to strongly support Dr. Alok Bang's application for a fellowship from the Carlsberg Foundation. Dr. Bang is one of the most talented and versatile scientists I have seen in recent years.

Dr. Bang came to Centre for Ecological Sciences in 2004. I taught him a course in Population Biology and have known him since then first as a Ph.D. student and then as a researcher. Dr. Bang's work during Ph.D. was on investigating reproductive division of labour in the social wasp, *Ropalidia marginata*. His research has provided answers to some unanswered questions about the socioecology of the species as well as opened several new possibilities. There are two inquiries he pursued which are worth mentioning. His work on discovering age as an important predictor of reproductive queue in these wasps has partly solved a question the lab has been trying to answer for last two decades. In a related but independent research question, he found out that extrinsic determinants of aggression can be equally if not more important than intrinsic determinants, as is evidenced in this wasp species. He found the first evidence of winner-loser effects in social insects, which leads to important questions regarding personality, confidence and neurophysiological underpinnings of cognition in insects. Part of his Ph.D. work is published in important journals such as *Animal Behaviour* and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, and the rest is being planned to be submitted to *Behavioral Ecology*, *Biology Letters* and *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*.

Dr. Bang has always been interested in interdisciplinary research, which has led him to pursue research in community ecology and invasion biology of insects. His broad experience in evolutionary biology and community ecology assists him to conceptualise research that draws from both the disciplines, something that is not very often attempted, but is important. His work in these two disciplines has also given him a broad range of skills pertaining to lab- and field-based research.

Dr. Bang's proposed research is eminently worthwhile. The project addresses the evolutionary vis-a-vis ecological driving forces on the termite-gut microbiota association of invasive termites. The association is widely studied, but Dr. Bang's project uniquely tests the evolutionary and environmental pulls exerted on interspecies interactions, and how this may help some species in invasion. The proposed project by Dr. Bang is very timely since biological invasions is one of the foremost causes of loss of biodiversity, and will generate critical information elucidating the forces that shape termite gut microbial communities. The proposed project is positioned uniquely between disciplines of evolutionary biology and community ecology, reflecting Dr. Bang's long-term interests in pursuing these two questions simultaneously.

In summary, I would like to whole-heartedly and with no hesitation strongly recommend Dr. Alok Bang for the Carlsberg Foundation Fellowship.


N. V. Joshi



Dr. N.V. Joshi
Centre for Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore - 560 012, INDIA



**Centre For Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute Of Science**
Bangalore 560 012, INDIA

Telephone: +91-80-23600985, 22932506, 22932635, 23608661

Fax: +91-80-2360 1428

E-mail: nvjoshi@ces.iisc.ernet.in

Prof. N.V. Joshi

November 1, 2013

To, Prof. Dr. Yuval Sapir,
Department of Molecular Biology and Ecology of Plants,
Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv 69978, Israel
Dear Professor,

It is with considerable pleasure that I am strongly recommending Dr. Mahua Ghara for a post-doctoral fellowship in your laboratory. Her background, research experience, temperament, maturity and motivation make her very well-suited for such a fellowship.

I have known and interacted with Dr. Mahua Ghara since her doctoral research at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science. With her Masters degree in Botany, her skills on pollination are exceptional. This led her to her eventual doctoral thesis question focused on the nursery-pollination mutualism between figs and fig wasps. Some of these fig wasps feed on the plant tissue for completing their development and can be technically termed herbivores. To address part of her research, she had devised and setup behavioural experiments to study various aspects of this intricate system. These experiments were conducted both indoors and in a field setup. Mahua also has experience in the field work as these fig trees are widely distributed in Southern India.

During her doctoral research she also has taken part in my lectures on statistics and she is quite capable of to designing and planning a statistically sound experiment. Mahua also had several discussions and arguments with me regarding the appropriateness of a particular statistical approach for addressing a specific scientific problem, and I am happy to record my appreciation of her good understanding and also her clarity of thinking.

Mahua has an interesting post-doctoral experience at centre for pollination studies where she set up a long-term monitoring project for assessing the diversity of pollinators in agro-ecosystem. There she mentored PhD and MSc. students and participated in creating awareness on pollinator decline due to farming practices among farmers and local people.

Mahua had been the coordinator of the Students Society and as part of it, she arranged several invited speakers to deliver lectures on varied disciplines and also actively participated in starting the first department in-house symposium. She also was instrumental in organising campus greening activities and has supported the work on digitisation of flora of Bangalore by Prof. Rao, an emeritus professor at our department.

She is very adaptable to change and has excellent inter-personal skills which has made her interactions with personnel very smooth. She is sincere, meticulous, curious and dedicated individual with a great passion for Science.

In summary, I am happy to strongly recommend Dr. Mahua Ghara for the PBC post-doctoral fellowship in your laboratory at the Tel Aviv University for the proposed work on Irises and its interacting partners. I am confident that she will be a very valuable addition to your group.

Thank you and with best regards,

N. V. Joshi



Dr. N.V. Joshi
Centre for Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore - 560 012, INDIA



**Centre For Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute Of Science**
Bangalore 560 012, INDIA

Telephone: +91-80-23600985, 22932506, 22932635, 23608661

Fax: +91-80-2360 1428

E-mail: nvjoshi@ces.iisc.ernet.in

Prof. N.V. Joshi

November 25, 2013

Letter of Reference in support of the application of Mr. Aditya Balaram

It is a pleasure to strongly recommend Mr. Aditya Balaram's application for admission to the Master of Science (Mathematics) program at the Leiden University (Applied Mathematics / Statistical Science for the Life and Behavioral Sciences). His abilities, temperament, training/educational background and motivation make him ideally suited for both these courses, and I am confident that he will be able to complete them very successfully.

I have known Mr. Aditya Balaram since April 2012, when we started discussing the possibility of working on a summer project with me. We have been in regular contact since then, both on email as well as in person, both about the possible extensions of the project and also about the other projects that he has been working on (e.g., in the summer of 2013, with Prof. M.K. Ghosh of dept. of mathematics, on applications of game theory).

My own research for the last three decades is on mathematical modelling and statistical analysis mainly applied to ecology and evolutionary biology. Of the very many students that I have come across during this period, Mr. Aditya Balaram would be very near the top. I would have been very happy to select him had there been a similar program in our department/institute.

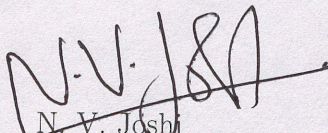
During my many discussions with him, I could sense that he has a very good knowledge of the subjects that he had formally studied (mathematics, statistics, economics). His interest in reading a wide range of books, and his scholarly temperament was also quite evident. He is extremely articulate, and has excellent command over spoken and written English (as I saw from his popular blogs on football); clarity of thinking and precision of expression being particularly noteworthy.

I was also impressed by his willingness to learn new topics and techniques, his ability to put in long working hours and his independence and resourcefulness. The many different questions that he raised during his project work clearly demonstrated that his keenness in getting to know the various facets of the problem at hand, and also his interest in obtaining a deep understanding of the subject. His analytical skills are noteworthy. The reports of his completed projects clearly demonstrate his commendable ability to present his objectives, approach and findings in a logical, cogent and coherent manner.

A particularly pleasing aspect of his approach to studies is that he would put in a substantial amount of serious effort on his own, but would also be very willing to consult others if it became necessary to do so. I would also like to add that he seems to have a natural predisposition for abstract / mathematical approach to problems, and such a temperament, together with the flair that he has shown towards many aspects of working with computers, make him particularly suitable for the program dealing with mathematical modelling and scientific computing. A close look at his CV does bring out many of his academic qualities very well - as demonstrated by the several on-line courses that he has successfully completed.

In summary, having seen the details of the course, and based on my interactions with Mr. Aditya Balaram, I am confident that he would be an excellent choice for admissions to the M.Sc. (Mathematics) program at the Leiden University, both for Applied Mathematics, as well as for Statistical Science for the Life and Behavioral Sciences

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require additional details or more specific assessment on one or more aspects other than those covered in this letter.


N. V. Joshi



Dr. N. V. Joshi
Centre for Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore - 560 012, INDIA



Centre For Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute Of Science
Bangalore 560 012, INDIA

Telephone: +91-80-23600985, 22932506, 22932635, 23608661

Fax: +91-80-2360 1428

E-mail: nvjoshi@ces.iisc.ernet.in

Prof. N.V. Joshi

January 2, 2014

To,

Prof. Dr. Yuval Sapir,
Department of Molecular Biology and Ecology of Plants,
Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv 69978, Israel

Dear Professor,

Greetings from IISc, Bangalore, India and best wishes for a Happy and Successful 2014

I understand that Dr. Mahua Ghara has applied for a position in your laboratory for the 12 month post doctoral fellowship to be granted by the Tel Aviv University, for studies on pollination and herbivory. I take considerable pleasure in strongly recommending her for this fellowship. Her background, research experience, temperament, maturity and motivation make her very well-suited for such a fellowship.

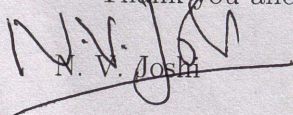
I have known and interacted with Dr. Mahua Ghara since her doctoral research at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science. With her Masters degree in Botany, her skills on pollination are exceptional. This led her to her eventual doctoral thesis question focused on the nursery-pollination mutualism between figs and fig wasps. Some of these fig wasps feed on the plant tissue for completing their development and can be technically termed herbivores. To address part of her research, she had devised and setup behavioural experiments to study various aspects of this intricate system. These experiments were conducted both indoors and in a field setup. Mahua also has experience in the field work as these fig trees are widely distributed in Southern India.

During her doctoral research she also has taken part in my lectures on statistics and she is quite capable of to designing and planning a statistically sound experiment. Mahua also had several discussions and arguments with me regarding the appropriateness of a particular statistical approach for addressing a specific scientific problem, and I am happy to record my appreciation of her good understanding and also her clarity of thinking.

Dr. Mahua has an interesting post-doctoral experience at centre for pollination studies where she set up a long-term monitoring project for assessing the diversity of pollinators in agro-ecosystem. There she mentored PhD and MSc. students and participated in creating awareness on pollinator decline due to farming practices among farmers and local people. She also was instrumental in organising campus greening activities and has supported the work on digitisation of flora of Bangalore by Prof. Rao, an emeritus professor at our department.

Dr. Mahua is very adaptable to change and has excellent inter-personal skills which has made her interactions with personnel very smooth. She is sincere, meticulous, curious and dedicated individual with a great passion for Science. In summary, I am happy to strongly recommend Dr. Mahua Ghara for fellowship in your laboratory a for the proposed work on pollination and herbivory. I am confident that she will be a very valuable addition to your group.

Thank you and with best regards,


N. V. Joshi 2 Jan 2014



**Centre For Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute Of Science**
Bangalore 560 012, INDIA

Telephone: +91-80-23600985, 22932506, 22932635, 23608661

Fax: +91-80-2360 1428

E-mail: nvjoshi@ces.iisc.ernet.in

Prof. N.V. Joshi

May 17, 2014

Letter of Reference in support of the application of Mr. Aditya Balaram

It is a pleasure to strongly recommend Mr. Aditya Balaram's application for an Inlaks Scholarship which will enable him to pursue a masters degree course in Applied Mathematics at any of the institutions in the UK and Netherlands where he has secured admission. His abilities, temperament, training/educational background and motivation make him ideally suited for all of these courses and I am confident that he will be able to complete them very successfully.

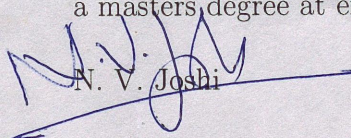
I have known Mr. Aditya Balaram since April 2012, when we started discussing the possibility of working on a summer project with me. We have been in regular contact since then, both on email as well as in person, both about the possible extensions of the project and also about the other projects that he has been working on (e.g., in the summer of 2013, with Prof. M.K. Ghosh of Dept of Mathematics, on applications of game theory).

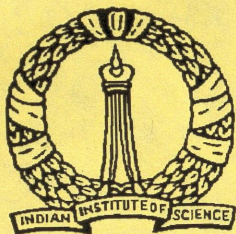
During my many discussions with him, I could sense that he has a very good knowledge of the subjects that he had formally studied (mathematics, statistics, economics). His interest in reading a wide range of books, and his scholarly temperament was also quite evident. He is extremely articulate, and has excellent command over spoken and written English (as I saw from his popular blogs on football); clarity of thinking and precision of expression being particularly noteworthy.

I was also impressed by his willingness to learn new topics and techniques, his ability to put in long working hours and his independence and resourcefulness. The many different questions he raised during his project work clearly demonstrated that his keenness in getting to know the various facets of the problem at hand, and also his interest in obtaining a deep understanding of the subject. His analytical skills are noteworthy. The reports of his completed projects clearly demonstrate his commendable ability to present his objectives, approach and findings in a logical, cogent and coherent manner.

A particularly pleasing aspect of his approach to studies is that he would put in a substantial amount of serious effort on his own, but would also be very willing to consult others if it became necessary to do so. I would also like to add that he seems to have a natural predisposition for abstract/mathematical approach to problems, and such a temperament, together with the flair that he has shown towards many aspects of working with computers, make him particularly suitable for these programs dealing with mathematical modeling and scientific computing. A close look at his CV does bring out many of his academic qualities very well as demonstrated by the several on-line courses that he has successfully completed.

In summary, having seen Mr. Aditya Balaram's development as a student, I strongly believe that he would do very well in the masters courses for which he has been admitted at the London School of Economics or the University of Leiden. I would very strongly recommend him for the award of an Inlaks Scholarship which would go a long way in permitting him to study for a masters degree at either of these institutions.


N. V. Joshi



**Centre For Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute Of Science**
Bangalore 560 012, INDIA

Telephone: +91-80-23600985, 22932506, 22932635, 23608661
Fax: +91-80-2360 1428
E-mail: nvjoshi@ces.iisc.ernet.in

Prof. N.V. Joshi

July 15, 2014

To,

Prof. Dr. Yuval Sapir,
Department of Molecular Biology and Ecology of Plants,
Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv 69978, Israel

Dear Professor,

Greetings from IISc, Bangalore, India and best wishes for a Happy and Successful 2014

I understand that Dr. Mahua Ghara has applied for a position in your laboratory for the 12 month post doctoral fellowship to be granted by the Tel Aviv University, for studies on pollination and herbivory. I take considerable pleasure in strongly recommending her for this fellowship. Her background, research experience, temperament, maturity and motivation make her very well-suited for such a fellowship.

I have known and interacted with Dr. Mahua Ghara since her doctoral research at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science. With her Masters degree in Botany, her skills on pollination are exceptional. This led her to her eventual doctoral thesis question focused on the nursery-pollination mutualism between figs and fig wasps. Some of these fig wasps feed on the plant tissue for completing their development and can be technically termed herbivores. To address part of her research, she had devised and setup behavioural experiments to study various aspects of this intricate system. These experiments were conducted both indoors and in a field setup. Mahua also has experience in the field work as these fig trees are widely distributed in Southern India.

During her doctoral research she also has taken part in my lectures on statistics and she is quite capable of to designing and planning a statistically sound experiment. Mahua also had several discussions and arguments with me regarding the appropriateness of a particular statistical approach for addressing a specific scientific problem, and I am happy to record my appreciation of her good understanding and also her clarity of thinking.

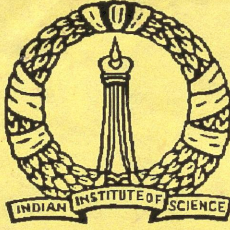
Dr. Mahua has an interesting post-doctoral experience at centre for pollination studies where she set up a long-term monitoring project for assessing the diversity of pollinators in agro-ecosystem. There she mentored PhD and MSc. students and participated in creating awareness on pollinator decline due to farming practices among farmers and local people. She also was instrumental in organising campus greening activities and has supported the work on digitisation of flora of Bangalore by Prof. Rao, an emeritus professor at our department.

Dr. Mahua is very adaptable to change and has excellent inter-personal skills which has made her interactions with personnel very smooth. She is sincere, meticulous, curious and dedicated individual with a great passion for Science. In summary, I am happy to strongly recommend Dr. Mahua Ghara for fellowship in your laboratory a for the proposed work on pollination and herbivory. I am confident that she will be a very valuable addition to your group.

Thank you and with best regards,


N. V. Joshi

15 July 2014



**Centre For Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute Of Science
Bangalore 560 012, INDIA**

Telephone: +91-80-23600985, 22932506, 22932635, 23608661

Fax: +91-80-2360 1428

E-mail: nvjoshi@ces.iisc.ernet.in

Prof. N.V. Joshi

December 25, 2014

It is a pleasure to recommend Dr. Gururaja K. V. for the position of 'Reader F', in the School of Biological Sciences at the National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER). As can be seen from his very impressive CV, list of publications, experience, demonstrated performance in several academic capacities, and the eloquent and well-prepared Research and Teaching plan, he would be an ideal candidate for this position, both for the field of Ecology as well as Evolutionary Biology.

I have known Dr. Gururaja for more than a decade now, ever since he joined our department (Center for Ecological Sciences) as a research associate. I have had many opportunities of interacting with him during this period. My impression of him is exceedingly positive, and I continue to be impressed by his approach to research, his scholarship, his dedication, his capacity to work hard and independently, and his ability to lead successfully by example.

In fact, in my capacity as a chairman of CES, I had several occasions of entrusting him with different academic responsibilities, and I am happy to record that he has discharged them with exceptional competence and success.

For a relatively recently established institute like NICER, Dr. Gururaja would be an ideal addition at this slightly senior level. He will be able to use his leadership qualities, as well as his friendly, cooperative and helpful temperament to set up an excellent department. His research interests are such that the biodiversity in the adjoining areas would form an ideal arena for interesting investigations, and he would be able to successfully motivate both graduate as well as undergraduate students to participate.

Dr. Gururaja's list of publications amply demonstrates his impressive productivity. It also indicates the wide range of his interests, and his flair for interacting with researchers with diverse backgrounds. I would also like to draw the attention to his keenness in teaching, both in the classroom and in a wider sense; the field guide on amphibians, and the android application 'frogfinder' from him provide an eloquent testimony.

I would also like to highlight his exceptional sincerity and dedication. He will be willing to take up many of the essential though thankless tasks that befall a somewhat senior faculty member in a newly established and growing organization, and will discharge his responsibilities very successfully and with maturity. I would have had no hesitation in recommending him for a similar position at our department. His demonstrated ability to handle independent projects, handle grant applications, successfully deal with the administrative machinery at many levels etc. would certainly make his a very valuable addition to NISER.

N. V. Joshi



**Centre For Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute Of Science
Bangalore 560 012, INDIA**

Telephone: +91-80-23600985, 22932506, 22932635, 23608661

Fax: +91-80-2360 1428

E-mail: nvjoshi@ces.iisc.ernet.in

Prof. N.V. Joshi

March 22, 2015

To,

The Members of the Selection Committee,
The Karnataka State Awards for Scientists and Engineers (2014)

Dear Madams and Sirs

It is a great pleasure for me to provide a strong recommendation to Dr. Gururaja KV for Sir CV Raman award for young scientist in life sciences for the year 2014. Dr. Gururaja has contributed significantly to the field of ecology and specifically in the field of Batrachology (study of amphibians) in the last 15 years.

I have known Dr. Gururaja since 2003 when he joined Center for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science as a postdoctoral research associate, after completing his PhD in 2003 from Kuvempu University on the effect of habitat fragmentation on anuran distribution and ecology. His PhD work resulted in international publications on ecological requirements of *Micrixalus* sp and *Nyctibatrachus* sp. His postdoctoral research was on cumulative environmental impact assessment of a hydel project and influence of landscape dynamics on anurans and fish. His research contribution and publications were highly appreciated by peers and forest managers as they provided a better understanding of conservation priority regions in the Western Ghats, especially in Uttara Kannada district.

As a batrachologist, Dr. Gururaja has described 18 new species of frogs from the Western Ghats. He took special interest in anuran behavioural ecology. In contrast to earlier presumption of foot flagging as a courtship behaviour, Dr. Gururaja and his collaborator established that foot flagging is more of a territorial behaviour. He has described three novel breeding behaviour in anuran amphibians from the Western Ghats.

His recent work on mud packing frog (*Nyctibatrachus kumbara**) from the Western Ghats is unique as it not only highlights male parental care in the anuran community, but also on reproductive character displacements in them. He is now looking at character evolution in the ancient frog families in India.

In addition to his taxonomic and behavioural studies, Dr. Gururaja has also worked on modelling of species distributions. As seen from one of his recent publications in the prestigious journal PLOSone, he was able to successfully delineate the ecological boundaries of Hanuman langur complex in India.

Currently, Dr. Gururaja is working with the Gubbi Labs LLP as a chief scientist and is continuing his research on anuran behavioural ecology. His present focus is on setting up and analyzing anuran call repository - thus demonstrating yet another instance of his versatility as a scientist.

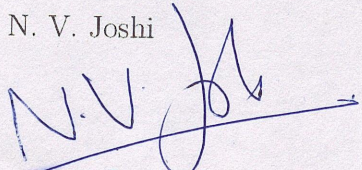

Apart from his research, Dr. Gururaja has been actively engaged in teaching, at various

levels. He has taught ecology to the undergraduate students at the Indian Institute of Science and also at the National Center for Biological Sciences. He has also taught Wildlife Biology to Masters students at the Central University, Kerala. Dr. Gururaja has proved himself to be a capable mentor and teacher. He has supervised 9 students so far at various levels.

Dr. Gururaja is actively engaged in disseminating scientific knowledge to citizens. He is a leading scientist in Mapping Monsoon Messengers programme supported by Earthwatch Institute. Dr. Gururaja is involved in Urban Slender Loris project in Bangalore. His book on Pictorial Guide to Frogs and Toads of the Western Ghats has received rave reviews as it helped many in field identification of anurans. Dr. Gururaja has also developed android app called Frog Find, a free app for field identification and reporting. The app has now over 4500 users.

Looking at his extensive contributions to many aspects of science, and more specifically to the field of batrachology, I would strongly recommend Dr. Gururaja for the Sir C.V. Raman award for the year 2014 in the category 'Life Sciences'.

N. V. Joshi



Dr. N. V. Joshi
Centre for Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore - 560 012, INDIA



**Centre For Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute Of Science
Bangalore 560 012, INDIA**

Telephone: +91-80-23600985, 22932506, 22932635, 23608661

Fax: +91-80-2360 1428

E-mail: nvjoshi@ces.iisc.ernet.in

Prof. N.V. Joshi

June 22, 2015

It is a pleasure for me to recommend the application of Neha Kalmankar for admission to the Ph.D. program at the Structural Biology Department of IBMB-CSIC, Unit of Excellence Marade Maeztu. Her most appropriate academic background, her hands-on experience of conducting research on several related topics, her exceptionally strong motivation and interest, together with her competent and temperament ensure that given the opportunity, Neha Kalmankar will be able to complete her Ph.D. very successfully.

During the past four years or so, I have had many opportunities of interacting with Neha Kalmankar, during the course of a collaborative project dealing with structural biology (identification of highly conserved residues from analysis of protein sequences, and exploring the underlying functional requirements). I am also familiar with her work on other projects related to structural role of specific amino acids. I am impressed by her deep commitment to research, her enthusiasm and active interest in acquiring knowledge, information and skills related to the many aspects of the problem at hand, and her willingness to put in a great deal of effort in the tasks, without losing concentration or focus.

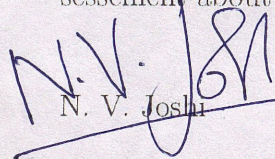
During her tenure at the Molecular Biophysics Unit, Indian Institute of Science, Neha Kalmankar has had the opportunity to participate in many academic activities related to the broad area of molecular biology (lectures from visiting researchers, seminars, symposia, workshops etc), and she has made excellent use of them in broadening her knowledge.

As can be seen from Neha Kalmankar's CV, she is a very good representative of the new generation of researchers equally at home in a wet lab, as well as in front of a computer. I am happy to testify about her exceptional flair for making use of a range of sophisticated softwares as and when needed.

Neha Kalmankar is very articulate, and has an excellent command over spoken and written English. She also has the necessary experience, temperament and maturity to be able to function successfully and with ease in a multicultural environment. Her helpful nature will surely make her an asset to any group that she joins.

In summary, I would like to add that amongst the several hundred students of her age group that I have come across during the last three decades, she would surely be close to the very top, and I am confident that she is an exceptionally appropriate candidate for admission to the Ph.D. program at the Structural Biology Department of IBMB.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need any additional information, or assessment about any specific aspects etc.


N. V. Joshi



**Dr. N.V. Joshi
Centre for Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore-560 012, INDIA**



IMB International PhD Programme: Reference Letter Form

Epigenetics and Genome Stability, at the Institute of Molecular Biology, Mainz, Germany. Her most appropriate academic background, her hands-on experience of conducting research on several related topics, her exceptionally strong motivation and interest, together with her competent and temperament ensure that given the opportunity, Neha Kalmankar will be able to complete her Ph.D. very successfully.

During the past four years or so, I have had many opportunities of interacting with Neha Kalmankar, during the course of a collaborative project dealing with structural biology (identification of highly conserved residues from analysis of protein sequences, and exploring the underlying functional requirements. I am also familiar with her work on other projects related to structural role of specific amino acids. I am impressed by her deep commitment to research, her enthusiasm and active interest in acquiring knowledge, informations and skills related to the many aspects of the problem at hand, and her willingness to put in a great deal of effort in the tasks, without losing concentration or focus.

During her tenure at the Molecular Biophysics Unit, Indian Institute of Science, Neha Kalmankar has had the opportunity to participate in many academic activities related to the broad area of molecular biology (lectures from visiting researchers, seminars, symposia, workshops etc), and she has made excellent use of them in broadening her knowledge. As can be seen from Neha Kalmankar's CV, she is a very good representative of the new generation of researchers equally at home in a wet lab, as well as in front of a computer. I am happy to testify about her exceptional flair for making use of a range of sophisticated softwares as and when needed. Neha Kalmankar is very articulate, and has an excellent command over spoken and written English. She also has the necessary experience, temperament and maturity to be able to function successfully and with ease in a multicultural environment. Her helpful nature will surely make her an asset to any group that she joins.

In summary, I would like to add that amongst the several hundred students of her age group that I have come across during the last three decades, she would surely be close to the very top, and I am confident that she is an exceptionally appropriate candidate for admission to the Ph.D. program at the Institute of Molecular Biology, Mainz.

N. V. JOSHI

(Please print your name here)

Bangalore, India

(Place, Date)

(Institutions Stamp)



N.V. Joshi

(Please sign here)

Name of PhD Candidate

Name of Referee

Institution Phone

Address Fax

City ZIP Code Email

Country

Type of association with the candidate

Duration of association with the candidate

As appropriate for graduate studies, the overall ability of the candidate is among the:

- Top 5 % Top 10 % Top 25 % Second quarter Third quarter Bottom quarter

Letter of Recommendation

Please give your opinion of the candidate considering the following criteria: theoretical knowledge, analytical thinking, interaction with colleagues, technical proficiency, adaptability/flexibility, motivation/commitment, creativity/originality, independence, communication skills.

Based on the many interactions with the candidate during the last four and a half years, I am convinced that Neha Kalmankar will be an exceptionally appropriate candidate for any Ph.D. program related to structural biology and bioinformatics in general, and molecular and cell biology in particular/

The candidate is exceptionally motivated and enthusiastic towards research. As can be seen from the CV (and because of being in a department like the Molecular Biophysics Unit at the Indian Institute of Science), the candidate has acquired a wide knowledge in many areas of biology. There have also been many opportunities for closely interacting with researchers from widely different cultural backgrounds and geographical regions (national as well as international), and I am happy to say that the candidate has the temperament, maturity and stability to work successfully in any group or laboratory. A helpful nature and friendly disposition makes the candidate a very useful member of the laboratory. The candidate is also very articulate and has demonstrated high proficiency in written and oral communication.

The candidate has demonstrated an excellent flair for using softwares and internet-based resources for problems related to structural biology. This, together with a sound knowledge of the subject, and very good technical proficiency, would enable the candidate to begin research quite quickly. The candidate is also an enthusiastic and quick learner, and surely has the necessary adaptability and flexibility that is needed at various time-points during the course of a ph.d. program.

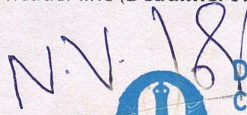

During the 4 1/2 years of involvement with the project, there have been more than adequate instances of the candidate demonstrating independence, creativity and resourcefulness.

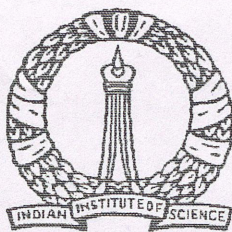
In summary, I have no doubt whatsoever that the candidate, Neha Kalmankar would have been an excellent Ph.D. candidate in our institution as well, and amongst the 200 or more students that I have come across in the last several decades, the candidate will be easily amongst the top 5%, and I am confident that given the opportunity, the candidate will be able to complete the ph.d. very successfully.

Please sign and authenticate this form with your institutional stamp and send the scanned document as PDF file attached to an email to **biotop@boku.ac.at** stating recommendation and the name of the candidate in the header line (**Deadline: 07.07.2015**).

Date

Signature



Dr. N.V. Joshi
Centre for Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore - 560 012, INDIA



**Centre For Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute Of Science**
Bangalore 560 012, INDIA

Telephone: +91-80-23600985, 22932506, 22932635, 23608661

Fax: +91-80-2360 1428

E-mail: nvjoshi@ces.iisc.ernet.in

Prof. N.V. Joshi, F.A.Sc.

August 12, 2015

To,
The Selection Committee
INSPIRE Faculty Scheme (Fellowship Jan 2015)

Dear Madams/Sirs
Greetings from CES, IISc, Bangalore.

In my capacity as a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, and currently holding the position of Associate Professor at the Center for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, is a pleasure for me to nominate Mr. Bharath H. Aithal for the INSPIRE Faculty fellowship. Based on my knowledge of his excellent ability, very high motivation, and demonstrated outstanding performance in several academic activities, I am convinced that he fully deserves the fellowship.

Mr. Bharath H. Aithal is known to me since 2009, when he joined Indian Institute of Science (IISc) for Doctoral programme (Integrated Ph.D). Since his thesis supervisor (Dr. T. V. Ramachandra) is one of my collaborators, I have had many opportunities of interacting with Mr. Bharath H. Aithal in the last five and a half years. In fact, just a few days ago I attended his ph.d. thesis defense wherein he performed exceptionally well, and should formally be getting his ph.d. degree in the next few days.

Candidate to be selected as INSPIRE Faculty fellows needs to have proven themselves during their earlier career in more than one of the following academic roles: good students, creative and thorough researchers, good teachers, good team-members and good mentors. I am happy to testify, from extensive personal knowledge and interactions, that Mr. Bharath H. Aithal's performance has been excellent in all these roles that he needed to do from time to time during his tenure as a graduate student at the Indian Institute of Science.

As can be seen from his CV, his performance in the course-work has been very good; he has consistently obtained high grades in a wide range of interdisciplinary courses such as Application of remote sensing in water resource management, Soft Computing in Water Resources, Environmental management, Principles and applications of GIS and Remote Sensing etc. during his research training program.

Over and above that, his excellence in research is also evident from his large number of publications in peer reviewed international and national journals and active participations in the scientific meetings and seminars. He has published 25 Journal papers, 4 Book chapters, 29 Conference proceedings, and 10 Technical reports during the last sixty months.

I am also happy to add that he has also delivered 14 invited / guest lectures in various Indian academic Institutions, Universities, and Research and Development Organizations. He



**Centre For Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute Of Science**
Bangalore 560 012, INDIA

Telephone: +91-80-23600985, 22932506, 22932635, 23608661

Fax: +91-80-2360 1428

E-mail: nvjoshi@ces.iisc.ernet.in

Prof. N.V. Joshi

February 15, 2016

To,

Prof. G. K. Sharma
Professor-in-Charge, Faculty Affairs
Faculty Affairs Unit,
Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar

Sub: Strongly recommending Dr. Rajasri Ray for a faculty position

Dear Sir

Greetings from CES, IISc, Bangalore.

Thank you for the mail. I am afraid there was no proforma attached alongwith it - though the requirements have indeed been adequately outlined on the webpage mentioned in the email.

Based on my interactions with Dr. Rajasri Ray during the last seven years, and based on my assessment of her abilities, commitment and demonstrated competence, it is a pleasure for me to strongly recommend her for a faculty position at IIT Gandhinagar.

Her impressive credentials and very wide experience as an academician are well brought in her CV. However, there are many other facets not directly evident from the documents that make her an outstanding choice for IITGN.

To begin with, Dr. Ray's application to the Humanities department has been very well thought out. Though she has an excellent background in basic sciences (ranging from botany/taxonomy to molecular biology), her work all along has been related to conservation biology and environmental sciences. She has also been actively involved in the multifaceted research on wetlands, energy, urbanization, geographical information systems etc in the group of her mentor Dr. TV Ramachandra. She is therefore in an ideal position to teach courses related to these broad themes to both undergraduates as well as post-graduates. More importantly, she will surely make the would-be engineers of IITGN well aware and knowledgeable about the importance of taking into account the ecological perspective and the ecosystem services, so as to be able to think of a very healthy mix of combining development with environmental conservation and sustainability.

In addition to her research work, Dr. Ray has been involved in mentoring a large number of students (graduate students, master's students, summer fellows, short-term visitors etc), of various backgrounds, including engineering. She is genuinely interested in teaching and is willing to spend a great deal of time and effort to ensure that the student do learn the many aspects of conducting research. Dr. Ray has also actively participated as guest-lecturer as well as organization committee member in many of the workshops / training programs being conducted in CES.

The location of IIT Gandhinagar would be ideal for Dr. Ray to extend her research to desert ecosystems as well. She is already experienced in conducting field-based course work, and I am sure that the students will greatly benefit from such activities that are generally offered in very few courses.

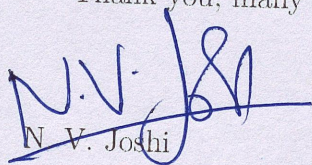
Dr. Ray is an independent researcher, and has good experience in successfully writing grant proposals. She is very articulate, and has good command on both spoken as well as written language. At the same time, she is empathetic to students who may not have such skills, and ensures that they are not at a disadvantage by putting in special efforts towards them.

Dr. Rajasri Ray is an excellent team-member and gets along very well with others. She is exceptionally motivated, hard-working and sincere, and will be a 'very good citizen' of the department, willing to cheerfully and enthusiastically take up the many thankless tasks that do come up from time to time.

In summary, I am sure that Dr. Rajasri Ray will turn out to be a very valuable asset to IIT Gandhinagar's teaching and research program, and I am happy to very strongly recommend her application.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should more details be needed. I will send a hard copy of this letter by post soon, as per your requirement.

Thank you, many best wishes and best regards


N. V. Joshi



Dr. N.V. Joshi
Centre for Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore-560 012, INDIA