

Dr. N. V. Joshi

22nd May, 1986.

Dr. M. E. Johnson,
Medicinal Chemistry and
Pharmacognosy Department,
M/C 781,
University of Illinois at Chicago,
P.O. Box 6998,
Chicago, IL 60680, USA.

Dear Dr. Johnson,

With reference to the postdoctoral position available in your laboratory, Dr. C. R. Vinayaka from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India has sent his application. I am happy to recommend him for the position. By now you must have received his application, which includes a testimonial from me, which may be treated as a recommendation letter.

Dr. Vinayaka received his doctorate in March 1986 for the thesis 'A computer modelling approach to study the mode and binding of flavins to flavodoxins', and in view of the work carried out by him, I strongly feel that he has all the necessary experience, qualifications and motivation relevant for your project.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

N. V. Joshi



מכון ויצמן למדע

THE WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

76100 REHOVOT · ISRAEL ישראל · 76100 רחובות

Prof. Joel L. Sussman
DEPARTMENT OF STRUCTURAL CHEMISTRY

המחלקה לכימיה מבנית

November 16, 1986

Dr. N.V. Joshi, Scientific Officer
Center for Theoretical Studies
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore 560 012 INDIA

Re: Dr. C.R. Vinayaka

Dear Dr. Joshi,

Dr. Vinayaka has applied for a post-doc position in my laboratory. I am looking primarily for good experimental crystallographer (see enclosed description of the positions that are open). He doesn't have to be a macromolecular crystallographer, but must know how to collect X-ray data and be able to learn to use our new Nicolet/Xentronics area detector which will be arriving in March, 1987.

I would greatly appreciate it if you would kindly give me your candid opinion of Dr. Vinayaka, stressing points of his originality, initiative, independence both in planning and execution of scientific projects, teamwork, scientific knowledge, capacity to devise, complete and conclude a scientific project. Kindly add other details that might help me to evaluate Dr. Vinayaka's candidacy for this position.

Looking forward to hearing from you in the near future.

With best regards,

Yours truly,

Joel L. Sussman
Associate Professor



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Pre & Post Doctoral Positions Available
in Macromolecular Crystallography

Duration: Ph.D. program 4½ years; Post Doctoral position 1-3 years.

Starting date: Ph.D. program 9/87; Post Doctoral position 1/87.

Qualifications: The ideal candidates should have a strong background in either biochemistry, computing or crystallography; and a keen interest in applying this knowledge to studying the 3-D structure of biological macromolecules.

- Research Areas:**
- (1) Crystallographic investigations into the 'Variability of DNA structure and its functional implications in protein-DNA interactions', e.g. DNA hairpin stem & loops, models of frameshift mutations and analysis of inherent flexibility of DNA.
 - (2) Crystallographic studies on the adaptation of proteins to extreme saline environments: 2Fe-2S ferredoxin and MDH from Halobacteria of the Dead Sea.
 - (3) Crystallographic studies on Acetylcholinesterase.
 - (4) Molecular model building & refinement of DNA & proteins.

Facilities: Two Rigaku AFC5-R (18kW) rotating anode diffractometers with integrated cooling systems - for protein studies, controlled by a microVax-II. Nonius CAD-4 diffractometer equipped with liquid N₂ cooling system. Nicolet/Xentronics Area Detector controlled by PCS & microVax-II. VAX 11/780 with Vector General Computer Graphics and Liacom color raster graphics. Optronics film scanner & Nonius rotation camera. IBM 3081-D.

Applications: Candidates should send a curriculum vitae and a statement of research interests together with the names of three scientists who could act as references to:

Prof. Joel L. Sussman
Dept. of Structural Chemistry
Weizmann Institute of Science
Rehovot 76100, ISRAEL

BITNET: CSJOEL@WEIZMANN

Phone: 972-8-482638

CABLE ADDRESS: WEIZINST (Israel) : מכון ויצמן למדע Phone: (08)482111-483111 טלפון Telex: 361900 WIX IL טלקס

Dr.N.V.Joshi

December 16, 1986

Prof.Joel Sussman
Department of Structural Chemistry
The Weizmann Institute of Science
76100 Rehovot
ISRAEL

Dear Professor Sussman,

Ref: Dr.C.R.Vinayaka

Thank you for your letter of 16 November 1986.
Dr.Vinayaka obtained his master's degree in Biochemistry,
followed it up with one year diploma in Molecular Biophysics
and went on to complete his doctorate on theoretical confor-
mational analysis of small molecules and their interactions
with macromolecules. His work is mostly on molecular model
building.

Dr.Vinayaka has extensive experience working on the
DEC-1090 computer at our Institute. He is familiar with
many aspects and systems programming and hardware as well.
His flair for working with computers, together with his
biochemical background, would make him quite suitable to
work in the programs undertaken in your lab, and especially
with the area detector.

On the other hand, he has not carried out any crystal
structure analysis. His knowledge about the theoretical
and experimental aspects of crystallography is mainly from
the courses undergone by him at the molecular biophysics
unit. Given a chance to be familiar with the techniques,
however, I strongly feel that he would be able to pick up
quite fast.

Dr.Vinayaka's originality has been seen very often in
improvisation of the existing facilities to extract maximum
performance out of them. I would rate his performance as
average as far as initiative and capacity to devise scientific
project is concerned. However, given a well delined research
project, his sincerity, perseverance, meticulousness and
capacity for hard work would ensure a successful completion
of the project. His very helpful attitude towards his

colleagues, together with a mild temperament enable him to assimilated very easily in any group.

Trust the above information would be helpful to you in filling up the position. Should any further information be needed, please do write to me.

May I thank you for the pamphlet on the Weizman Institute, and also the write up about the research activities and facilities in your laboratory. With the possible exception of a synchrotron source, there is 'everything which a Macromolecular Crystallographer always wanted to have'.

With regards,

Yours truly,

N.V.Joshi