

Center for Synchrotron Radiation Research and Instrumentation
Biological, Chemical, and Physical Sciences Department
Illinois Institute of Technology
31 October 2008

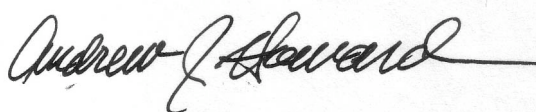
I write in enthusiastic support for the candidacy of Dr. Kyung-Won Park for a position at your institution. Dr. Park was a graduate student at Illinois Institute of Technology from 1998 to 2002, and he began working in my lab in 2000. He completed his Ph.D. under my supervision in 2002. I am an Associate Professor of Biology and Physics at Illinois Institute of Technology, a small, privately-financed research university in Chicago. I am also a consulting crystallographer at Southeast Regional Collaborative Access Team (SER-CAT) at the Advanced Photon Source (APS), Argonne National Laboratory. Prior to coming to SER-CAT in 2004 I was Director of the Industrial Macromolecular Crystallography Association Collaborative Access Team (IMCA-CAT) at the APS from 1996 to 2002; I was Chief Scientific Officer at IMCA-CAT from 2002 to 2004.

Dr. Park is one of the most adept laboratory scientists I have ever known. His ability to stay on top of a complex laboratory procedure, whether it involves gene manipulation or protein expression and purification, is truly impressive. In my lab he would routinely achieve molecular-biology results and protein expression levels that were considerably higher than those obtained by my other students. He proceeded with his work in systematic and quiet ways rather than spending a lot of time agonizing publicly over his difficulties. When he did run into problems he would work them out on his own or through discussions with the people best qualified to help him. So in a new experimental setting I am confident that he could proceed efficiently toward useful results, even if the environment and resources he could draw upon were limited.

For much of the time that he was working in my lab, he worked closely with my postdoctoral trainee, Dr. Kyung-Jin Kim, and the two of them made impressive progress on some difficult projects involving development of protein expression systems using *Vitreoscilla* hemoglobin as a co-expressed protein. These results culminated in the publication of a significant paper: Park et al (2003), "Fusion protein system designed to provide color to aid in the expression and purification of proteins in *Escherichia coli*" *Plasmid* **50** (3): 169-175. Many laboratories have requested that we send them copies of the plasmid described in this publication, and Dr. Park has discussed its commercialization through a major manufacturer.

In summary, I would describe Dr. Park as an effective, productive researcher. I would be honored to have him rejoin my laboratory now, and I am confident that he could bring his abilities to bear on a new setting in ways that would bring honor and distinction to his new institution. Please let me know if I can provide further information about him.

Sincerely,



Andrew J Howard
Associate Professor of Biology and Physics, IIT
howard@iit.edu, +1-312-567-5881