



Department of Evolutionary Neuroethology
Prof Dr Bill S Hansson, Director

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David Scheinberg, PhD
Search Committee Chair
Department of Neuroscience
Brown University
Providence, RI

Dear Prof. Scheinberg:

I am a Project Leader in the Department of Evolutionary Neuroethology at the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology. I have collaborated with Dr. Alberto Capurro from February 2010 on an EU-sponsored project to uncover the neurological basis of complex odor coding in moths. For this research, I worked closely with Alberto to computationally assess our physiological data from the antennal lobe as well as establish a neuromorphic model for blend coding.

Although Alberto did not previously have experience in insect olfaction, his extensive knowledge of computational neuroscience as well as his practical experience with electrophysiology allowed him to quickly gain an understanding of the project and its goal. I found his experience in non-insect neuroscience to be a great advantage, as it gave him a broad viewpoint that was both refreshing and invaluable to the project.

Alberto's work in translating our raw data into a meaningful analysis and a computational model was integral to the EU project and allowed us significant insights into the mechanisms underlying odor blend coding. His enthusiasm for neuroscience, and passion for seeking the underlying mechanisms of neural coding played an important role in our success.

Alberto is very kind-hearted, considerate, and a pleasure to work with. He works independently, but is also an excellent collaborator who will take the views and opinions of others into consideration. I truly enjoyed my collaboration with him. I believe that he can be an excellent addition to your department.

Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Respectfully,



Shannon B. Olsson, Ph. D.
Project Leader
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