



College of Veterinary Medicine  
Department of Physiological Sciences

1600 SW Archer Road  
PO Box 100144  
Gainesville, FL 32610-0144  
352-392-5145 Fax

Dr. Roger L. Reep  
Phone: (352) 294-4059  
E-Mail: reepr@ufl.edu

5 April 2012

David Sheinberg, Ph.D.  
Search Committee Chair  
Department of Neuroscience  
Brown University  
Providence, RI

Greetings Dr. Sheinberg and Search Committee,

I am pleased to support Diana Sarko's application for a position in the Neuroscience Department at Brown. I served as Diana's PhD mentor from 2002-2006. She arrived in my group with a strong interest in comparative mammalian brain organization, gained during her undergraduate years at Emory. Diana's dissertation research defined sensory regions of the manatee brainstem, thalamus, and cerebral cortex. Her desire to understand the peripheral basis for the extensive somatic sensory specializations seen in manatees led her to map the innervation of the vibrissae found over the entire body. She developed an independent, positive working relationship with Dr. Frank Rice at Albany Medical College and performed some beautiful work in his lab using fluorescent antibodies. Diana has excellent organizational skills, which enabled her not only to finish her PhD as well as five papers, but to engage in side projects as well.

Diana was the driving force behind our receipt of funding to study hyrax vibrissae (which also have a body-wide distribution) and the organization of the sensory brainstem, thalamus and cortex. This effort involved an array of collaborators here at UF and elsewhere. This project exemplified Diana's maturing into an independent scientist – she developed an idea, pulled together a team, and led a cooperative

endeavor by example.

Diana engaged in a variety of teaching opportunities while here at UF, including lectures and labs in neuroscience taught to graduate students, embryology taught to veterinary students, and histology taught to veterinary students. Her easygoing, confident manner went over very well with students. She meets the students on their own terms, spending the time it takes for them to arrive at an understanding of the topic at hand. This typifies her characteristic thoroughness and follow-through, and to me is the hallmark of a dedicated teacher.

Diana is a dedicated and imaginative scientist and teacher with a positive, forward-looking attitude. She works very well with a variety of personalities and is thoughtful and low key in her personal style. Her current research on multisensory processing in cats represents a significant extension of her scientific capabilities. By combining multielectrode array recordings with complex, ethologically relevant stimuli, she is defining a future research trajectory that appears very promising. I am confident that Diana will have a long, productive career, and it will be a pleasure to follow her progress.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Reep". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roger" and last name "Reep" clearly distinguishable.

Roger L. Reep  
Professor