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Computational Neuroscience Faculty Search Committee
c/o David Sheinberg
Department of Neuroscience
Brown University
Providence, RI

To whomever it may concern:

I am pleased to write in strong support of Dr. Tim Vogels for the Assistant Professor in Computational and Theoretical Neuroscience at Brown University. I have now known Tim for more than 10 years and have watched him mature from a beginning graduate student to a highly accomplished and talented scientist ready to embark on an independent research career.

Tim started out as a physicist, and is now an accomplished computational neuroscientist. He spent enough time as a postdoc learning to do experimental research to have obtained a first-hand knowledge of what experimental work entails, something I think critical for theorists who wish to work with experimentalists, or wish their work to be relevant to the experimental community.

Tim has an extraordinary amount of vital energy. He is endlessly excited by science and life, and has learned to channel that energy into high-quality and productive work. As a graduate student, Tim was a fabulous TA, and a wonderful lab colleague, always helpful to those around him. Equally importantly, even as a graduate student, Tim worked very hard to learn how to make his computational work accessible and exciting to his peers, most of whom were not computationally sophisticated. The time he spent learning to communicate to biologists early in his career ensures that he knows how to make his theoretical work relevant to the larger neuroscience community.

Tim has been extremely productive in three different laboratory environments, including papers in high profile journals such as *Science* and *Nature Neuroscience*. Tim's interest in how signals propagate in functional networks and the role of balanced excitation and inhibition is found throughout his work. His research proposal clearly outlines where he feels this work can and should go, and shows the continuity in his thinking during his career. I feel that Tim's success in three very different laboratories is extremely important, and argues that he will continue to be successful as an independent investigator.

Tim's joy in life and science are infectious. He will readily help those around him, and he is generous and gracious in all of his dealings with others and the world. He should develop into a superb classroom educator, and will assuredly be an outstanding colleague and mentor. Tim is a theorist who will always work to ensure that he is contributing by his presence to the community around him, and therefore would make an outstanding hire for a biology, neuroscience, engineering, computer science or physics department wishing to add someone to strengthen the quantitative research and education of the department. Tim's energy, enthusiasm, and willingness to attack hard and deep conceptual problems about how the brain works are traits that will make him an exceptional asset to the field, as he has the ability and charisma to excite young scientists and remind older ones why science is so fascinating.

Sincerely,

Eve Marder, Ph.D.