



STANFORD UNIVERSITY

NEUROSCIENCE PROGRAM

STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305-5117

Neurophysiology

(650) 725 - 5872 • FAX (650) 725 - 8052

E-mail: maciver@stanford.edu

Web: <http://www.stanford.edu/group/maciverlab/>

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

M. Bruce MacIver, M.Sc., Ph.D.

Associate Professor of

Department of Anesthesia

Neuropharmacology Laboratory

Recommendation for Michael P Sceniak, Ph.D.

My experience with Michael: I have known Michael since he joined my lab as a Post Doctoral Fellow in March 2004. During this time we have interacted on a daily basis. I have observed him in laboratory, seminar and academic settings.

Evaluation: Michael is one the best postdocs to work in my lab. I am very happy with the time he has spent here – my only significant complaint is that I wish that he could stay longer. Michael possesses excellent technical skills and is very comfortable with research and lab work. He possesses skills that are well beyond the norm for neuroscientists, including comprehensive electronics and machinist training. He machined and rebuilt major parts of our equipment during the first few months in my lab, and the quality of his workmanship is excellent. He designed well thought out experiments and executed them flawlessly. He was clearly in the top 10 percent of neuroscience postdocs in our research program. I expect that he will become an important member of your program as well. Michael is very intelligent and possesses a curious and creative mind. It seems that every time I talk with him, which is on a daily basis, Michael has more ideas for projects – and many of these are ideas that can be pursued now. Michael also is very interested in talking and thinking about “big-picture” issues, and has often discussed his interests in systems level brain function with me. Michael has excellent data analysis skills and excellent computer programming savvy. He developed a flexible system of software to acquire, analyze and display data, and he exhibits outstanding organizational skills. Michael is very dedicated to his work. When he arrived, he immediately increased the rate of experimentation in the lab and he often stays until late at night.

Future: Because Michael was able to do both computational and experimental work at the highest level in my lab, I am quite confident that he will be able to do this successfully in an independent setting, and I think his plan to develop new experimental techniques

combining both whole animal and brain slice preparations is very important and a very wise choice. It's obvious that his goal is a research-oriented faculty job. Given what I have seen of him in the lab, his skills, and his interests, this seems just right for him, and I think his work in neuroscience plays to his strengths. I look forward to seeing his work evolve over the coming years.

Michael Sceniak is dependable to work with, honest, and possesses an extraordinary character combined with a good sense of humor. I am confident he will succeed in an academic/research career. His personal, professional and academic performance has been impressive. Apart from his research interests, he has served as a mentor for undergraduate and graduate students in the lab. He is a compassionate and involved individual and he maintains an avid interest in his world. Michael leads an active life and enjoys many interests apart from academic life, especially white water kayaking, guitar picking, and restoring autos.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "m. b. maciver". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "M" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

m. b. maciver