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Professor M.A. Ferguson-Smith FRS

To whom it may concern

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I write in strong support of the outstanding research of Professor Alexander Graphodatsky and his group at the Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology, SB RAS, Novosibirsk, who currently lead the world in the field of the molecular cytogenetics of vertebrates. His pioneering work on karyotype evolution and comparative genomics is largely responsible for our present understanding of the phylogenomic relationships of birds and mammals. He has combined the powerful techniques of chromosome banding, gene mapping and chromosome painting to determine these relationships in species he has studied from every continent. This experience is unsurpassed by any other scientist. I have had the privilege of working with Professor Graphodatsky on many projects and we have exchanged visits between Cambridge University and Novosibirsk. He follows the great tradition of Russian cytogeneticists in fundamental work on chromosome biology and evolution and his laboratory continues to have a well-deserved international reputation among geneticists and evolutionary biologists. The field of comparative genomics is at an exciting stage of development as the new methods of high throughput DNA sequencing begins to be applied to the study of chromosomes isolated by flow cytometry and it is essential to have the expertise of Professor Graphodatsky to continue to lead the international effort.

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