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1 December 2014

Prof. Graphodatsky  
Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology  
Russian Academy of Science, Siberian Branch

Dear Prof. Graphodatsky,

I am writing to you at this time to ask you to intensify the collaborative research of your group at the Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology with my group at the Department of Biology of the University of Florence (Italy) and with the Italian national research group of which I am a member. As you are well aware your group is part of international net of collaborators on ***Centromere Function and Evolution***. This project also include the following research groups: Fengtang Yang of the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Malcolm Ferguson-Smith of the Department of Veterinary Medicine, Cambridge University, Marta Svartman, Department of General Biology, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (Brazil), Werner Schempp, Medical Faculty, University of Freiburg, Institute of Human Genetics (Germany), Nicole Valenzuela, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology, Iowa State University.

Your role and particular contribution to the project is deemed essential for the success of this project. It is clear that your research group is one of the best, internationally recognized researchers on the evolution of mammalian chromosomes. Your contributions have been and will be central to our understanding of the origin of the human genome and how it has evolved over millions of years. This understanding is fundamental to obtain a clear view of how the genome functions, not only over evolutionary time, but also to explain contemporary cytogenetic phenomenon in clinical genetics and the investigation of disease in both animals and humans. Indeed, without the comparative genomic results obtained by your group and others it would not be possible to deeply understand the evolution and function of the mammalian genome. I would also include in this the advances made in ancient DNA studies which are particularly relevant considering the precious and well conserved ancient DNA coming from Siberia.

Your role at the international level is clear. Your group has been fundamental in introducing, new molecular methods into the study of mammalian chromosomes and karyotypes. In great part due to the efforts of your research group we now have a good map of the evolution of the mammalian genome over 90 million years.

**Prof. Roscoe Stanyon**  
Via del Proconsolo, 12 – 50122 Firenze  
+39 055 2757738| e-mail: [roscoe.stanyon@unifi.it](mailto:roscoe.stanyon@unifi.it)



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Further, your institute has assembled over the years an important primary source of cell lines and molecular probes that will be need by international research efforts in molecular cytogenetics and genome sequencing assemblies.

I should add that your institute has become an international center for scientific training at various levels. I am now requesting that you increase all your efforts in this program over the next years. In particular I would like to formalize plans to send one or two students for extended research visits to your laboratory. They can work closely with members of your research group to acquire new methods and advance progress on our current collaborations.

I am asking you to increase your research efforts in all these collaborative efforts. It is my hope that you will be able to find sufficient funds to support your participation in these international research programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Roscoe Stanyon".

Roscoe Stanyon, PhD  
Professor of Anthropology  
Department of Biology  
University of Florence (Italy)

Winner International "Frassetto" Prize for Physical Anthropology, Accademia dei Lincei (National Academy of Science, Italy)  
Former Senior Research Fellow, National Cancer Institute (USA)  
Humboldt Fellow, University of Munich (Germany)