



UNIVERSIDADE DE SÃO PAULO
INSTITUTO DE BIOCIÊNCIAS

To whom it may concern


Professor Igor F. Zhimulev, Director of the Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology is well known scientist working in field of polytene chromosome organization. This kind of chromosomes is the best model of interphase chromosome of eukaryotes. He pioneered the molecular analysis of cloned puffs under ecdysterone control, demonstrated the complex organization of gene there placed; he formulated the idea of intercalary heterochromatin as highly repressed chromosome regions and described its parameters and discovered the *SUUR* gene, most important for delay of replication in *Drosophila*.

Now Professor Zhimulev actively works analyzing abundant data on chromatin structure obtained in frames of international modEncode project. In addition, he has maintained scientific collaborations with many researchers in Europe and USA as well. Thanks to his knowledge, I have established collaboration with Prof. Zhimulev related to the localization of repetitive sequences in *Drosophila* chromosomes.

He is an author of more than 350 scientific works including 3 monographs on Russian and 3 monographs in English (published in Academic Press, USA) about polytene chromosomes, 4 editions of the textbook "General and Molecular Genetics" (in Russian) and the textbook "Chromosomes. Structure and functions" 2009 (in Russian).

In summary, I support the status of the Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology as a National Research Institute in Russian Federation and recommend strongly the name of Prof. Igor F. Zhimulev as Director of the Institute.

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