

DIPARTIMENTO DI BIOLOGIA E BIOTECNOLOGIE "CHARLES DARWIN"



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

Piazzale Aldo Moro, 5
00185 Roma



PROF. SERGIO PIMPINELLI

TEL. 06-49912876

FAX 06-4456866

Email: sergio.pimpinelli@uniroma1.it

To whom it may concerns

Professor I. F. Zhimulev, director of the Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology is well known scientist working in field of polytene chromosomes organization. This kind of chromosomes is the best model of interphase chromosome of eukaryote. He pioneered the molecular analysis of the cloned puff, controlled by ecdysterone, demonstrating 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*. He grounded the idea of position effect variegation mechanism, functioning as a result of DNA compaction under influence of inactive heterochromatin.

Now Professor Zhimulev actively works analyzing abundant data on chromatin structure obtained in frames of international modEncode project and participates in international project on *Drosophila* heterochromatin organization. He is constant participant of *Drosophila* heterochromatin meetings beginning with 1990 in Italy.

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).

I support the state of this Institute as National Research Institute in Russian Federation and Prof. Igor Zhimulev as a director.

Sergio Pimpinelli,

Professor of Genetics, Past President of Italian Genetics Association and Past Director of the Department of Genetics and Molecular Biology of Sapienza University of Rome.