



WHITEHEAD INSTITUTE

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Prof. Igor Zhimulev
Deputy Director
Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology
Novosibirsk
Russia

Dear Prof. Zhimulev:

I am writing in strong support of the research conducted by the staff of the Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology. I have been familiar with this work for many years by following the excellent publications from your laboratory and your colleagues on chromosome structure. This research has provided critical insights into our understanding of how genomes are organized and gene expression regulated. Your standing as a leading researcher with international recognition is evidenced by the fact that the National Drosophila board of North America made an exception to its policy of not providing travel funds to invited speakers to ensure that you would be able to accept an invitation to give a keynote address at the annual national meeting in 2011. This community, valuing the fundamental insights that emerged from your work, viewed it as extremely valuable to have your contributions presented.

The discovery of the SUUR protein by your laboratory was truly groundbreaking, identifying for the first time a protein that can repress metazoan DNA replication. The publications detailing this work have been published in internationally recognized, leading journals. The productivity of the research groups at the institute is enviable.

In 2012 I had the opportunity to attend the International Congress on Chromosomes held in Novosibirsk. I met many of your colleagues and toured the lab. I was impressed with the rigorous science being performed. As you know, this

led to a collaboration between our laboratories to define the mechanism by which the SUUR protein represses DNA replication. This productive collaboration involved Drs. Alexey Pindyurin, Evgeniya Andreyeva, Victor Shloma, and yourself. It led to an important paper, recently published in the leading journal *Cell Reports*, which has received wide recognition. The biochemistry and cytology studies provided by researchers at your institute were an important component of the study.

The Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology has a rich history of discoveries fundamental to our understanding of cellular function, and I look forward to continued contributions in the coming years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Terry Orr-Weaver", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Terry L. Orr-Weaver
Member, Whitehead Institute
Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Member, National Academy of Sciences, USA