



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

Search Committee, Sorghum Breeding
Agricultural Research Center – Hays
1232 240th Avenue
Hays, KS 67601
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20 January, 2010

Dear Search Committee,

I am writing in reference to the application of Dr. Suhwinder Singh for the position of Research Assistant Professor at the Agricultural Research Center, Hays, KS.

Dr. Singh worked in my laboratory at KSU from 1998 until 2003 on a collaborative project with the Punjab Agricultural University in India, Kansas State University, and the USDA-ARS to identify molecular markers associated with resistance to Karnal bunt of wheat. During that time, he constructed a linkage map in population of 150 RILs and identified markers that flank a QTL with a major effect on Karnal bunt resistance. The identification of molecular markers for resistance to Karnal bunt is significant to U.S. agriculture given that quarantine restrictions against *Tilletia indica*, the causal agent of Karnal bunt, in the U.S. prevent field evaluation of breeding populations.

Dr. Singh was involved in a variety of other projects in my laboratory as well as that of our colleague, Dr. Bikram Gill. In particular, he used SSR markers to map genes in three populations of wheat segregating for resistance to leaf rust and a population for mapping resistance to the Hessian fly. In all cases, Dr. Singh had ownership of the projects, including population development, DNA isolation, construction of linkage maps and preparation of manuscripts. He was involved in phenotyping populations as well. In addition, Dr. Singh played an important role in training of both graduate and undergraduate students while in my laboratory.

Dr. Singh has been involved in planning and conducting research related to use of DNA markers linked to important traits for most of his career. He has interacted with the KSU wheat breeder on deployment of markers in breeding populations and has training in plant breeding.

I believe that Dr. Singh is qualified for the position described. I found Dr. Singh to be hard working and diligent and to have a genuine desire to improve agricultural production. He was



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always interested in developing new projects and collaborations and was constantly working to improve methodology. I would recommend him for the position in your department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gina Brown-Guedira". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G' and 'B'.

Dr. Gina Brown-Guedira
Director USDA/ARS Eastern Regional Small Grains Genotyping Lab
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