

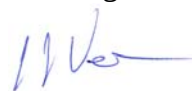
19 January 2007

Applicant: M. Maille Lyons
Mentor: Dr. Joseph Vallino

Dear Members of the Search Committee:

This letter acknowledges my commitment to continue Maille Lyons' mathematical and modeling advancement following her participation in the US-Africa Advanced Studies Institute on Mathematical Modeling of Infectious Diseases in Africa workshop. Although Maille is currently a graduate student at University of Connecticut, she is strongly motivated and functions more at the assistant professor level. It was primarily Maille's research ideas and writing that lead to a successfully funded multi-investigator proposal under NSF's Ecology of Infectious Diseases (EID) program. Although Evan Ward (Maille's advisor) serves as lead PI on the EID grant, it is Maille's interaction with all the CO- investigators that keeps the project tied together. Maille's thesis work and involvement on the EID project is primarily experimental; however, she has taken a keen interest in the modeling component that is under my supervision. I have been extremely impressed by Maille's commitment to insure that the experiments she conducts address specific processes in the model; a commitment I rarely observe in many of my other collaborations with established scientists. I would be very excited to get Maille more involved in the modeling components of the EID project, and the AIMS workshop would provide her a unique opportunity to advance her modeling and mathematical skills. She has also expressed a desire to conduct research in Africa following her thesis work. In fact, she is currently visiting Tanzania. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards,



Joseph Vallino