



UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL ENGINEERING

September 4, 2003

Dr. David W. Deerfield II
Assistant Director, Biomedical Initiative
4400 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Dear Dr. Deerfield:

I am writing this letter to express my support to Dr. Jaime Ramirez-Vick and the proposal entitled *Assisting Bioinformatics Efforts at Minority Schools*, being submitted to the National Institute of Health (NIH) in collaboration with the Pittsburgh Super Computing Center and Carnegie Mellon University.

Dr. Jaime Ramirez-Vick is a member of my department and will receive our total support. The combination of expertise of the different members of this group in the areas of bioinformatics, analysis of algorithms, and software development, represents an important indication of the potential of success of this project. In addition, a graduate program in Bioengineering, in which one of its tracks is Bioinformatics, is currently under review here at the UPR. As you can see we are strongly committed to the development of a Bioinformatics infrastructure at the University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez.

If this proposal is granted, we shall provide release time of three credits per semester to Dr. Jaime Ramirez-Vick to work on this project for the 2-year duration of his involvement in the project. Once again, I am totally confident that this is an important research project to which we shall provide our total support. If you need any other information, do not hesitate to contact me.

Cordially,

Marco A. Arocha, Ph. D.
Chairman
General Engineering Department
University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez