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TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH
Homi Bhabha Road, Colaba, Bombay - 400 005
Molecular Biology Unit

CONFIDENTIAL

February 4, 1989

Director
T.I.F.R

About Dr. Veronica Rodrigues

Application for Indian Citizenship
Case No. 1087/5094/336/XXXIII

Dr. Veronica Rodrigues came to the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research after taking a First Class (Honour) BA from Trinity College in Dublin University in 1976. She was an outstanding student and initiated the work on chemosensory genetics of Drosophila at T.I.F.R. After taking her Ph.D in 1981, Dr. Rodrigues was appointed a Research Associate in the Molecular Biology Group. After two years of Post Doctoral research at the Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics in Tubingen, she was promoted to the position of Fellow.

2 The work started by Dr. Rodrigues has become a major research programme at T.I.F.R. In addition to the contributions that Dr. Rodrigues made as the initiator of research on olfactory and gustatory genetics, she has made an important and highly original contribution to sensory biology by showing a discrete spatial pattern of neural activity in the antennal lobe. This is the first clear demonstration of the nature of olfactory coding in the brain. The only comparable experiments are the work of G. Shepherd at Yale on vertebrates, and these provide only indicative evidence. They do not come anywhere as near as Veronica's in showing the manner of spatial representation. The experiments on 3H-DOG mapping of odours that Veronica has carried out are difficult and intricate and very near the limits of sensitivity of the technique. Her work has been widely recognised and she was invited to present it at a special session in the Gordon Conference in 1987. She was elected a Young Associate of the Indian Academy of Science.

3 Dr. Rodrigues is among the best of the academic staff members in the Molecular Biology Group. She has an independent, original and creative mind and has amply demonstrated her abilities both

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as a scientist and as a leader of those who work with her. She has shown a great deal of initiative and ability in carrying out the responsibilities which she has been given and possesses uncommon qualities of character and leadership. (I) consider her one of the most valuable member of the Molecular Biology Group and of T.I.F.R.

Dr.Rodrigue's application for Indian Citizenship is pending before the Home Ministry. I would like to request you as Director, T.I.F.R.to write a letter to the Home Ministry in support of Dr.Rodrigue's application. May I also request you to ask the Department of Atomic Energy to send an appropriate letter to the Home Ministry, pointing out the value of Dr.Rodrigues to the Institute and the country. It might be best if the letter is written by one of the high officers of the Department, if not the Chairman, DAE.

The change in residence rules governing the holders of Commonwealth passports is causing a great deal of inconvenience and hardship to Dr.Rodrigues and it is important to expedite her case.

O. Siddiqi
O. Siddiqi

J.A. Kalyanram
Secretary, Min. of HA -