

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



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Prof. H. E. Savaki
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28 July 2008

Dear Prof. Savaki,

First of all I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the warm hospitality and generosity shown to me during my visit by the faculty and students of the Mind & Brain Sciences program within the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Crete. I presented three seminars: one on the challenges of human exploration, one on the influence of microgravity on the neural systems in both vertebrates and invertebrates obtained from orbital missions, and the last on the physiology and anatomy of the primate vestibulospinal system. It was a privilege to present these works, which included scientific collaborations with American, Japanese, European, and Russian colleagues.

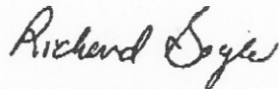
The second point I would like to express is the superb efforts made by your team of faculty and support staff to create a vibrant and exciting program in the neurosciences. This was most evident from the very beginning. Specifically, the students were alert, attentive, and asked the most relevant questions. At times I found myself smiling and admiring their intellectual curiosity. Motivation I find to be one of the most important and telling measures of the student's likelihood for a successful academic and professional career. Your program is indeed motivating the students. In order for a graduate program to be successful three key ingredients are required. First, the program must have excellent and motivated students. This has been established. Next, there must be an excellent range of investigators within the program conducting top-notch independent and collaborative research in a broad range of topics. This enables the students to have direct validation that a career in science is exciting, rewarding and fun by joining a productive investigator's laboratory. This too has been established on Crete. And next, the infrastructure and institutional support must be there to keep the dreams alive. The fact that the program is able to host international speakers bodes very well that this has been established. I hope that this letter helps to encourage the administration to maintain its motivation for this superb academic program. I have participated directly with neuroscience graduate programs at University of Colorado, McGill University, Università di Pisa, Universität Düsseldorf, Marine Biological Laboratories, Washington University, Oregon Health Sciences University, NASA Ames Research Center, Institute of Higher Nervous Activity and Neurophysiology (Moscow), and Stanford University School of Medicine, and I have frequent interactions with other programs in the USA, Canada, Brasil, Ukraine, and Europe. I would honestly place your

program among the top programs. My congratulations are extended to the students, the faculty and staff, and the administrators for a job well done. I am very proud to have participated with your program.

The last point I would like to express is my desire to help in any way possible the members of this program, students as well as faculty. Perhaps in the future we might see an astronaut and neuroscientist from Crete. Please do not hesitate to contact me at anytime if I can be of assistance to further a young scientist's career.

Once again, thank you and congratulations for your achievements.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Boyle".

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