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To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit my application to join the faculty at the University of Oregon. In reviewing the research interests of your department, it seems that the opportunity for collaboration is great. I'm particularly excited about potential collaborations involving the role of calcium in skeletal muscle physiology. I have spent the last 12 years developing as a scientist and believe that I am ready to lead my own lab group.

My interest in Muscle Physiology stems from my interest in sports supplements with an application to human performance. As I progressed through my graduate career I drifted away from sport supplement work and toward fundamental issues of muscle pathophysiology including disuse atrophy and muscle dystrophy. My own grandmother is partially responsible for this change in direction. Following open heart surgery in her upper 80's she was left wheelchair bound due to severe muscle atrophy caused by prolonged bed rest. I was shocked that the atrophy was so severe and the regrowth was nearly non-existent. The focus of my graduate work at the University of Florida was centered around the development of countermeasures for disuse atrophy and potential mechanisms to augment muscle regrowth. It became clear that in order to answer many questions of physiology I would need a new set of skills. I completed my post-doc in a lab that routinely uses molecular biology techniques in order to gain a mechanistic understanding of skeletal muscle disease and function. Along with those tools, I also developed a passion for the study of muscular dystrophy and have become quite touched by parents and boys suffering with this disease. In concert with techniques I've learned previously, molecular biology techniques allow me to answer questions ranging from broad questions regarding muscle physiology to very precise questions about a single disease. My research plan calls for continued investigations into disuse atrophy and muscle regrowth as well as muscular dystrophy.

Several features of this department are particularly attractive. The first is that there is an abundance of experience in this department, which will undoubtedly be useful for a new faculty member. While I do believe that I am prepared to function independently, I am eager to collaborate with existing faculty and feel that I can both learn from their expertise, but also compliment their lines of research. Additionally, this department has an interest in skeletal muscle research. I have chosen not to apply to several other departments/universities because they lacked a nucleus of interest.

I hope that you will carefully review my application for employment and give serious consideration to granting an interview. I am eager to discuss my potential role as a faculty

member of the Department of Human Physiology. As requested, please find my CV. I have asked several people to submit letters on my behalf. They should be arriving under separate cover. For your convenience, I have also included the names and contact information of these people. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

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