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Arie Bodek Chair, Physics and Astronomy Department
Re: Proposal for Neurophysics group

Dear Arie:

I write to express my strong support for a Neurophysics group in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, as outlined in your proposal. I am aware of the Jenalia Farms initiative, as my former research Director from Bell Labs Charles V. Shank, who was more recently the Director of Lawrence Berkeley Labs, is now setting up a research group there. In addition, I note that I have collaborated [1] with both Winfried Denk and Karel Svoboda in the first application of compact solid-state femtosecond modelocked lasers to the study of 3D imaging of neurons by two-photon excited fluorescence in living rat brain tissue in 1996. Karel is now heading to Jenalia Farms. Therefore, I am personally interested in this line of research. But moreover, I think that this will be highly synergistic with a focus area that we have identified in our collaboration with the Biomedical Engineering Department, that being biomedical optics, and I think that Neurophysics is a great opportunity for the University.

As we are getting ready to expand into the new 101,000 square foot Goergen BMEO building, it is a great time to be recruiting new faculty in closely related areas. Many new joint projects can be envisioned involving our current collaborators in CVS, BME, Ophthalmology, BCS, etc.

Sincerely yours

Wayne H. Knox

[1] K. Svoboda, W. Denk, W.H. Knox and S. Tsuda, "Two-Photon-Excitation Scanning Microscopy of Living neurons with a Saturable Bragg Reflector Modelocked diode-Pumped Cr:LiSAF Laser", Optics Letters 21, 1411 (1996).