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U. S. Department of Health
and Human Services
National Institutes of Health

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Bruce A. Shapiro, Ph.D.
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ABCC Review Committee
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear ABCC Review Committee Members:

I am writing this letter to express my enthusiastic support for the Advanced Biomedical Computing Center and the role it plays in the research of my group, the Computational RNA Structure Section within the Center for Cancer Research Nanobiology Program. I was involved with the Center when it first was created back in the 1980's and have witnessed the tremendous strides that have occurred in both hardware and software for biomedical computing. As a computational scientist myself, I appreciate all the complexities that are involved in running a computing center that has to provide the computational resources to a large and varied community, some members of which are not computer savvy.

The center has played an instrumental role in many of the research projects related to our work in computational RNA biology and RNA nanobiology, allowing us to obtain results that have led to many papers on these subjects. Providing the computational infrastructure for high performance computing has been extremely important for us since many of our applications are computationally intensive. Also, maintaining support in both systems administration and the scientific understanding of the variety of computer programs that are provided by the center in addition to the help provided to us over the years in using our own software has been critical and well handled in past years.

As such, I believe the ABCC is an important asset to the research community and should not only be fully supported but also enhanced to provide for a variety of research endeavors that include advancing the state of the art of computation in the biomedical arena. What has also been important in the past and should continue into the future is the ability to maintain close interactive and collaborative contact between users of the ABCC facility and the members of its staff.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce A. Shapiro".

Bruce A. Shapiro, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator