



Campus Lübeck – Department of Surgery

Director: Professor Hans-Peter Bruch, M.D.

Laboratory for Surgical Research

Head: Docent Dr. Jens K. Habermann, M.D., Ph.D.

Tel: 0451 / 500-2676

Fax: 0451 / 500-2069

Email: Jens.Habermann@gmail.com

Internet: <http://www.uni-luebeck.de>

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To:

Dr. Brian Luke

Advanced Biomedical Computing Center

NCI Frederick

Frederick, MD, USA

Letter of support for Dr. Brian Luke, Advanced Biomedical Computing Center

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure and the highest enthusiasm that I provide this letter in the strongest possible support of Dr. Brian Luke's upcoming review at the *Advanced Biomedical Computing Center* (ABCC), NCI-Frederick.

As background information, I am Head of the Laboratory for Surgical Research, Dept. of Surgery, University of Lübeck, and Coordinator of the German government funded network "ColonCancer Screening Chip". Our research is focused on the identification of blood and tissue based biomarkers for early diagnosis and prognosis of solid tumors by genome, transcriptome, and proteome analyses. Hereby, we have a particular interest in colorectal cancer and coordinate the *North German Tumor Bank of Colorectal Cancer*. This is one of four nation-wide tumor banks officially funded by the German Cancer Aid Foundation. Further interests entail high-throughput clinical validation of marker panels for early diagnosis based on protein chip technology and tissue microarrays. These tasks are key projects of the German Government (BMBF) funded network "ColonCancer Screening Chip" and the 7th EU framework project FLUODIAMON.

My acquaintance with Dr. Luke reaches back to my work as a postdoctoral fellow at the laboratory of Dr. Thomas Ried at Genetics Department, NCI, NIH, Bethesda, USA. Starting with a collaboration between the ABCC and the laboratory of Dr. Thomas Ried, interactions with the ABCC in general and the involvement of Dr. Luke in my projects in particular have been highly instrumental and beneficial for high-throughput proteomics data analyses.



For example, Dr. Luke generated his own analyses tools to robustly identify SELDI-TOF-MS based serum protein markers that later on could be validated by specific ELISA assays. Dr. Luke is co-author on the article which was published in *Gastroenterology* in 2006 (131(4):1020-1029). This work was one of the key stones for building up the German Government funded network “ColonCancer Screening Chip” which has implemented the identified serum proteins onto a comprehensive screening chip currently tested in a cohort of about 800 patients.

Furthermore, we are delighted to be engaged in an ongoing collaboration with Dr. Luke at ABCC in which we investigate serum biomarkers for their diagnostic potential of recurrent or metastatic disease during surveillance programs after surgery for colorectal cancer. Together we are currently editing the according manuscript (Roblick UJ, Zillmer S, Luke B, Finlay WJ, Auer G, Bruch H-P, Ried T, Habermann JK: Serum biomarkers allow for early detection of colorectal metastasis.).

Against this background, I am personally eager and determined to continue our fruitful collaboration and fully support the efforts of the ABCC in general and of Dr. Luke in particular. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any further support.

Sincerely,



Jens K. Habermann, M.D., Ph.D.
Head, Laboratory for Surgical Research
Coordinator, ColonCancer Screening Chip - Network