

The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston



School of Medicine
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
School of Allied Health Sciences
School of Nursing

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June 29, 1995

U.S. Department of Justice,
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Nebraska Service Center
P.O. Box 87140
Lincoln, NE 68501-7140

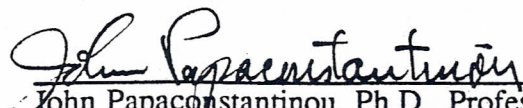
Dear Madam or Sir:

It is my pleasure to have this opportunity to certify my impressions of Dr. Vladimir Vinnitsky as an alien of extra-ordinary ability who has much to contribute to the area of research on neuroendocrine physiology in tumorigenesis. In addition, he has the ability to contribute the development of interdisciplinary studies in physiological and molecular processes of stress response during tumorigenesis. This interdisciplinary expertise has been developed during the past year at which time he trained in my laboratory and in the laboratory of my colleague, Dr. E. B. Thompson.

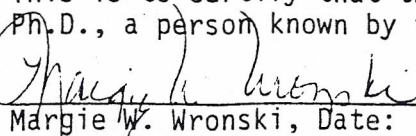
I met Dr. Vinnitsky in 1993 at the 3rd Stromboli Conference on Aging and Cancer in Stromboli, Italy. At this meeting I first learned of Dr. Vinnitsky's studies on the physiological responses of the brain during the progression and subsequent regression of a subcutaneously transplanted tumor. The data clearly suggested that the brain was stressed during the progression of this tumor. Because of my interests in the molecular biology of stress responses, I invited Dr. Vinnitsky to the University of Texas Medical Branch to develop his progression - regression tumor system in order to analyze the molecular processes of stress responses, and more specifically, families of stress response genes by the brain. Dr. Vinnitsky has reached the stage where he can ask questions concerning how stress response genes are activated in the brain by tumorigenesis and the recovery of this response during tumor regression. Definitive experiments can now be implemented. This area of research is novel and has the potential to develop into a novel and vital interdisciplinary area of biomedical research involving neurophysiology - molecular biology of stress responses and tumorigenesis. Dr. Vinnitsky is the appropriate investigator to take these studies forward.

I strongly support Dr. Vinnitsky's application for an INS Green Card. I believe he is capable of making contributions to health-related neuroendocrinology and tumorigenesis in this country, whereas in his home country the resources and stimuli for this new research program are lacking.

Sincerely,


John Papaconstantinou, Ph.D., Professor
Department of Human Biological
Chemistry & Genetics

This is to certify that the above is the actual signature of John Papaconstantinou, Ph.D., a person known by the Notary Public witnessed below


Margie W. Wronski, Date: July 3, 1995

