

February 10, 2013

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: Support letter for Dr. Gilles Kouassi concerning his research collaboration with Prof. Netkal Made Gowda's group at WIU.

Dear Evaluators:

As mentioned in my previous letter of support, it is my pleasure to state that I have been having active collaboration in some research projects between my research group and my colleague, Dr. Gilles Kouassi, at Western Illinois University.

Dr. Kouassi joined the Department of Chemistry at WIU in the fall semester 2007 as a junior tenure-track faculty with an impressive research record. With his wide expertise in physical chemistry of amorphous food and pharmaceutical systems, phenolic compounds and antioxidant assessment, synthesis, characterization and functionalization of metal nanomaterials, nano/microencapsulation and stability of functional systems, and non-thermal bio-processing, it was evident that Dr. Kouassi was a good asset to the Department of Chemistry at Western.

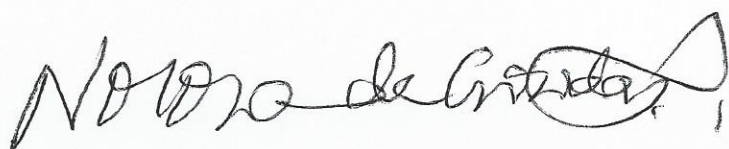
It is hard to exactly quantify the amount of Gilles' contribution to several of my students' projects. However, it is accurate to say that the contribution made by Gilles was highly significant or major, especially to projects in the area of chemical kinetics. Due to his willingness to co-supervise my graduate students', my responsibilities in terms of supervising student's research projects, preparing the manuscripts and getting them published in peer-reviewed national/international journals have been considerably reduced. On the following paper: Kishore Cholkar, Gilles Kouassi, S. Ananda, M.K. Veeraiah, and Netkal M. Made Gowda, Osmium(VIII) Catalyzed Kinetics and Mechanism of Indigo Carmine Oxidation by Chloramine-B in Basic Medium, *Synthesis and Reactivity in Inorganic, Metal-Organic, and Nano-Metal Chemistry*, **41(9)**, 1126-1134, 2011, Gilles was involved in conceiving the project, developing the concept, and deriving the kinetic rate law based on the proposed mechanism for the oxidative conversion of indigo carmine by chloramine-B in basic medium. Furthermore, Gilles was involved in preparing the manuscript to make it a publishable end product.

I would like the younger faculty to be able to continue with my research projects if possible, after my retirement. Of course I hope to be research active as professor emeritus, as long as my health permits.

Please feel free to contact me, should you need any additional information.

Cont'd

Sincerely,



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Netkal M. Made Gowda', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Netkal M. Made Gowda, Ph.D.
Professor & Chair Emeritus
Department of Chemistry
Western Illinois University
Macomb, IL 61455
Phone: 309/255-2454