

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ



DEPARTMENT OF MOLECULAR & CELL BIOLOGY  
DIVISION OF NEUROBIOLOGY

LIFE SCIENCES ADDITION  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

To whom it may concern:

April 5, 2012

I have known Prof. Dr. V. David Sánchez A., Ph.D. For about twenty (20) years.

We started our cooperation as David was still in Europe as civil servant of the German federal government at the German Aerospace Center (DLR) in Oberpfaffenhofen by Munich and cordially extended a personal invitation to me to become Associate Editor of Neurocomputing, a premier Elsevier scientific journal, which David launched and led always as Editor-in-Chief for 15 years to over 50 volumes. I was enchanted to accept.

His well-traveled path led him to the United States, where he among others, academically, became Associate Professor at the University of Miami, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science in Coral Gables, FL and later Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at DeVry University and the Keller Graduate School of Management in Pomona-Long Beach, CA.

His research and development work has always been outstanding and of pioneering character on a global scale and includes the instantiation and leadership of one of the most advanced computer vision and predictive control programs worldwide, executed at DLR, whose algorithms, technologies, and systems led to the successful demonstration of the world-fastest real-time massively parallel supercomputer ever built – to its time – that has helped the space programs to grasp floating objects under u-gravity, demonstration flown with the STS-55 flight of NASA's Space shuttle Columbia with ESA's Spacelab aboard and DLR's ROTEX space robot.

The associated areas of scientific research have formed the baseline within brain research towards a more complete understanding of the operation of biological brains including the human one for many years to come. Through my life-time modeling research on the biological cortex and its abstraction, generalization, and classification functionalities, I can first hand appreciate his contributions.

In the U.S. David has supported the NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, CA designing and building the most advanced unmanned spacecraft ever built programmed to be used to fly to the Jupiter moons and Pluto and most recently the NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) in Huntsville, AL designing and developing the U.S. next generation spacecraft including the ARES rockets in the framework of the NASA's Constellation Program (CxP) and successor, the world's premier programs in human spaceflight.

David never ceases to engage in discussions at the world highest levels of involvement, e.g., with NASA, DARPA, NSF in the U.S. as well as ESA and the EU in Europe to co-shape the destiny of the present and future of the intelligent machines, biologically- and artificially-inspired, with deep connections to neuroscience, biology, and a more thorough understanding of ourselves and the universe. Tight implications to technological advances that result, support, or co-evolve with the scientific search for knowledge have never come short in his planning and executing mind.

Our exchange of ideas and potential future cooperative work in areas of common scientific interest underscores my delight to stay in personal and professional vicinity of David.

For any additional questions you may have, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walter J. Freeman".

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