ILLINOIS

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

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February 13, 2020

To: The Dean Doc. RN Dr. Martin Kubala, Ph.D.

The following recommendation letter is written in support of Dr. Dusan Lazar for his promotion to become a full professor at your institution.

I know quite well the in-depth research of Dr. Dusan Lazar since his Ph.D. days (1995-1998), when I was a 'reviewer' of one of his early in-depth reviews on "Chlorophyll a fluorescence induction" that he had submitted to Biochimica et Biophysica Acta (BBA **1412**: 1-28, 1999). From that time on, I have been a reviewer of his several other original papers. We have also personally met twice, in 2007 and 2010, while I was a visiting scientist in the Czech Republic. Further, we have been in regular contact, with each other, during the last three years, as I began to work with him and Dr. Alexandrina (Sandra) Stirbet on mathematical modeling. This interaction involved a much more in-depth contact, and it led to several publications: three major reviews on chlorophyll *a* fluorescence induction and its mathematical modeling (Stirbet et al., 2018, 2019, 2020); it has become a very important area for the prediction of photosynthetic performance.

In my view, Dusan has a very thorough knowledge of the intricate process of photosynthesis. He has an in-depth understanding not only of the biophysics, but of biochemistry as well as physiology of the process. Further, he is not only a great experimentalist, particularly in the measurements of chlorophyll *a* fluorescence, but his knowledge and abilities as a modeler is much greater than anyone I know. There are only a few scientists in the world with such deep experience and, understanding of modelling of such a complex process as photosynthesis.

The published research, and review papers, authored or coauthored by Dusan Lazar, document that he is a thorough and highly mature scientist in the area of photosynthesis research. I fully support his application and recommend him to be promoted to the position of a full professor in his University; Dusan has my highest recommendation for this promotion. If you have any questions, please feel free to send me an e-mail at gov@illinois.edu.

Yours sincerely,

Govindjee Govindjee

Professor Emeritus, Plant Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry,
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