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To whom it may concern

Recommendation letter for Dr. Valerie Trouet

I know Dr. Valerie Trouet since September 2001. I met her the first time when she was a young PhD student during a conference which I was organizing at Davos in honor of Fritz Schweingruber. I was struck by her enthusiasm and scientific interest discussing with her at a Poster session. After the conference, some months later, I sent her a manuscript to be reviewed and I remember she answered that she was not sure to be able to act as referee, that was the first time she was doing it, showing me that she was very modest. Her reviewer's comments were deep and useful: excellent. When building our Research Unit (RU) "Dendrosciences" during the last reorganization of our institute (2005-2006), the Head of our RU, Dr. Jan Esper, and me we thought immediately to Valerie as soon as a position for a Post-Doc was available. Since 2007 Valerie is working in my research group ("Tree Physiology"), although she cooperates with the dendroclimatological team too.

During all these years, I have always been very much impressed by Valerie's skills in individuating the hottest topics to be dealt with in tree-ring science, formulating brilliant scientific hypotheses, carrying out statistical analyses properly, analysing the results and discussing them with the existing literature wisely, writing down papers in a very efficiently. Valerie is a very efficient, sharp thinking scholar, and very productive, as shown by her prolific publication production.

She proved to be a friendly and helpful colleague and she was integrating herself very well in our very international research group. She worked long hours, many more than were laid down in her contract.

Valerie is certainly suitable for the position you are offering at the Tree-Ring Laboratory at the University of Arizona, being an ideal candidate for interdisciplinary research (as shown by the different but related scientific interests which she was touching - and publishing - in the past), with a very high potential for growth and ability to secure external funding. I am sure she will be capable of establishing an ambitious research group and highly productive research program. I can't evaluate Valerie's skills in teaching and mentoring.

Valerie is an excellent scientist and I wish I could keep her in our tree-ring laboratory at Birmensdorf.

I am sure that I shall regret if she will leave our group, but nonetheless I support her brilliant scientific and academic career. I strongly recommend Valerie as a scientist.

Dr. Paolo Cherubini

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