



Department of Integrative Biology
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Dr. Paul Yock
Martha Meier Weiland Professor of Medicine
Director, Biodesign
Stanford University
Stanford, CA

Dear Dr. York:

I have been on the UC Berkeley faculty since the Fall Semester of 1971 and am currently Professor of Integrative Biology. As well as co-founder of MD Flux, a medical diagnostics company in the field of human metabolism. I write to you today to attest to Robert's extraordinary service to our company, as well as his passion for life science research and desire to improve the practice of medicine.

I met Robert almost 20 years ago when he came by my campus laboratory to learn about my work, and to discuss possibly applying to my program as a PhD. It was a path he decided not to take, but we remained in touch. Some years later, I called him to ask for help with some patent and licensing issues. I had hired a brand name Silicon Valley law firm to work on my patent applications, but I was not getting good service from them. Robert took over the work did an outstanding job. He gave me excellent customer service, and successfully took the applications to issuance for a fraction of the cost of what the law firm would have charged. I then successfully licensed the patents to the company CytoSport as part of their innovative energy drink Cytomax. Robert even managed to have a portion of my previous legal bill dismissed due to improper charges.

Two years ago, I again called on Robert as I was investigating how to build a medical diagnostics company based on my research. I view this company as the culmination of my life's work. The technology is the result of decades of research and insight into human metabolism, and I hope it will lead to an effective and widespread platform for accurately assessing the nutritional needs of patients in critical care/ICU settings, among others.

Robert is very bright and intellectually quick. He understands the science and technology on a deep and profound level, and so has been able to craft patent applications that clearly and thoroughly express our technical innovations. But he has done much more than this. When I first approached him with my co-founder, Michael Horning, we had intended to found a company with two neurosurgeon colleagues at UCLA. Robert immediately intuited that these gentlemen were not central to our endeavor, and so he recommended that they not be brought on as co-founders, but instead as advisors. These gentlemen have since become tangential to the project, so Robert's advice turned out to be prescient and accurate.

While we initially called on Robert as a legal representative, he has gone far above and beyond that call of duty. While Michael and I are experienced scientists, we are inexperienced in the business of medicine and how to make change in that field. Robert realized that we had a steep learning curve to tackle. He gave us valuable advice and direction, and opened up many opportunities that we hadn't even envisioned. He has introduced us to numerous potential advisors and investors. He recommended that we apply for Steve Blank's Lean Launchpad for Life Sciences at UCSF in the fall of 2013. When we were admitted to the class, he obtained two other strong team members with business backgrounds in health care, and even participated in the class himself. He has also generously agreed to defer part of his legal fee for two years while we seek funding.

Based on my observation, there is no reason to think Robert would not perform exceptionally well in your program. The only reason we not asked him to be a full-time member of our team yet is that we do not have any funding for this. His participation in Stanford Biodesign might actually be of benefit to our company, as he can bring us additional insights in the field of medicine to us as a result.

Best wishes for continued successes in all of your efforts.

Sincerely,



George A. Brooks, Ph.D.
Professor
Docteur Honoris Causa
de l'Université Montpellier 1
Cofounder

