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Re: Letter of support for Toby Dylan Hocking for funding for the useR 2011 conference

Toby Hocking has started a PhD in October 2009 under the supervision of Dr. Jean-Philippe Vert (Ecole des Mines de Paris - Institut Curie) and myself. The work of Toby is centered on statistical learning techniques for bioinformatics and computer vision.

A significant portion of the work in this area relies on the analysis of results of specific statistical techniques. This leads to the need for efficient, reliable and intuitive labeling tools for statistical software packages. The abstract which he has submitted to the conference described a package that aims at enhancing the labeling capabilities of R. This package is likely to have an impact for all users of the R software: while a nice plot is by no means a replacement to proper statistical practice, a subtle statistical inference technique still needs a proper plotting tool such as the one proposed in this package.

The software has been developed entirely by Toby. He has been a student in France since October 2008, first as Masters student at the Université Pierre et Marie Curie, then, starting October 2009, as a PhD student at Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris (graduation expected in 2012). He started to develop the software on July 2009.

Overall, Toby has been the main force behind this project. A travel award would allow him to go to the useR 2011 conference: this would be very beneficial to him and would give him the opportunity to present his work and interact with other statisticians.

Sincerely yours,



Francis Bach

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