

### Faculty Endorsement

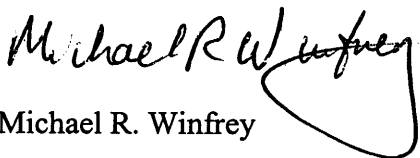
I will be very pleased to work with Matt Palmer on his research project. Matt has been doing research with me for the past two semesters and is proficient in the basic molecular and microbiological techniques required for this project. Thus, he will be able to work efficiently on this project as he is well up on the learning curve. Matt is an excellent student (gpa > 3.5) and is one of the best students I have had working in my lab. He is very quick to pick up concepts and techniques, keeps careful notes, and works very well independently.

Matt is very interested in continuing his education in graduate school and this project will be very beneficial to him in providing him with relevant research experience. This is one of the most important experiences that an undergraduate can obtain to prepare them for graduate school and greatly enhances their application. I have been working on various aspects of mercury cycling by bacteria for 18 years, and this project will fit in with my on-going research. In addition, if Matt is successful at cloning the mercury resistance genes from a natural bacterial isolate, this will provide a set of genes that will be much more relevant for the increasing applications of the mercury resistance genes in studies in microbial ecology and environmental microbiology.

I currently do not have a research grant and we need the funding to support Matt's research. I have enjoyed working in the lab with Matt in the past and I will be pleased to assist him in the preparation of a poster or oral presentation at the University Research Day next spring. We may also present the results of this work at the North Central Branch of the American Society for Microbiology meeting next October and I will also assist him with that presentation. If Matt is successful, we will be publishing the results and I will also assist Matt with this.

Thank you for your consideration of Matt's proposal. He has a tremendous potential for conducting excellent research and he is very deserving of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael R. Winfrey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping loop at the end of the last name.

Michael R. Winfrey