

October 19, 2006

Nicholas Ayache, PhD
Asclepios Project
INRIA - BP 93
06902 Sophia-Antipolis Cedex
France

Dear Professor Ayache:

I write to express my strong support for your effort to begin a joint collaboration between the INRIA SOPHIA laboratories and the Boston medical academic community, especially as it relates to the concepts of surgical simulation. The work my group has been doing with members of the INRIA community in creating a Simulation Open Framework Architecture (SOFA) is potentially a critical element in making these developments widely accessible to the medical community. The chance to partner with INRIA to make this breakthrough come sooner is a welcome offer and I pledge my full support to seeing it to a successful end.

Respectfully,

/s/

Steven Dawson, MD

Program Lead, Medical Simulation
MGH - CIMIT
Interventional Radiologist
Massachusetts General Hospital
Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School