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To:
Prof. Nicholas Ayache, Ph.D.
INRIA -- BP 93
06902 Sophia-Antipolis Cedex
France

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RE: EU Grant Application, entitled "Equipes Associees"

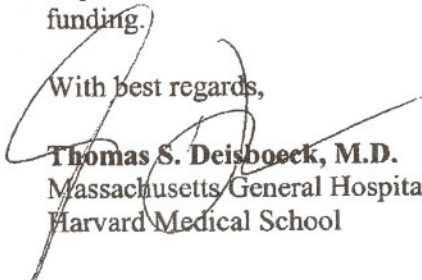
Dear Professor Ayache,

I am delighted to participate in this exciting EU-US research network that promises to combine biomedical imaging, cutting edge image analysis and innovative computational modeling and simulation.

As you know, I am the founder and Principal Investigator of MGH's Center for the Development of a Virtual Tumor, CViT (<http://www.cvit.org>). I hold appointments as Assistant Professor of Radiology at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. My group, the Complex Biosystems Modeling Laboratory, is part of Harvard-MIT's (HST) Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging here at MGH.

As I understand, the focus of this EU project is exchange of research personnel and expertise with the teams located in the US and CViT seems to be ideally suited to play a significant role in this. That is, CViT, one of NIH/NCI's currently only nine Integrative Cancer Biology Programs (<http://icbp.nci.nih.gov/>), it is charged with developing the first online community dedicated to cancer modeling, and the innovative IT infrastructure to support it, en route to a modeling tool kit for *in silico* cancer research. Currently, CViT.org includes some 100 participating investigators from more than 50 institutions around the globe. Establishing scientific collaborations that yield valuable data for these modeling efforts as well as promoting teaching and educational outreach is a main focus of ICBP in general and of CViT in particular and as such I enthusiastically support this application and hope it will receive funding.

With best regards,


Thomas S. Deisboeck, M.D.
Massachusetts General Hospital
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