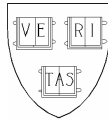


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Dr. Nicholas AYACHE
Asclepios Research Project
INRIA Sophia Antipolis
2004 route des Lucioles - BP 93
06902 Sophia Antipolis Cedex
FRANCE

20 October 2006

Dear Nicholas:

It is a pleasure to write in support of the proposed INRIA Equipes Associées Project, "CompuTumor: Computational Brain Tumor." This project promises to advance the state-of-the-art in brain tumor modeling, and its application to image-guided procedures.

As Gordon McKay Professor of Engineering and Director of the BioRobotics Laboratory at Harvard University, I look forward continuing our productive collaboration in this new project. I chose your group at INRIA for my sabbatical stay in 2004 because of its world-leading expertise in medical image processing. I am pleased that my visit led to our successful, ongoing collaboration. Our joint work on combining haptic feedback methodologies with fast FEM modeling resulted in the unprecedented ability to realistically reproduce the sensations of finger tip contact with soft tissues. The image processing capabilities we attained through our mutual postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Marius Linguraru, has enabled new cardiac surgical procedures based on 3-D ultrasound guidance, including image-based robot control. Both our haptics and ultrasound capabilities will be immediately applicable to the proposed project.

I am certain that this project will provide new insights into tumor growth, cancer imaging, and effective surgical interventions. You have my full support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert D. Howe', written in a cursive style.

Robert D. Howe
Gordon McKay Professor of Engineering