

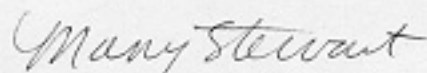
February 15, 2000

Program Director  
National Science Foundation

Dear Program Director,

This letter is to indicate my support for the Virtual Cell that Dr. White and his colleagues at NDSU are developing. I look forward to the opportunity to use the Virtual Cell as an interactive exercise in an introductory biology course and an upper level cell biology course that I teach at NDSU. I would like to incorporate more interactive, hands-on activities into these courses and have been impressed with what I have seen in the Virtual Cell in its formative stages. One of the features about the Virtual Cell that I especially like is that students will be challenged to critically think about a process such as aerobic respiration and then use the tools of the Virtual Cell to address questions. As development of the Virtual Cell proceeds, I anticipate that it will provide a powerful tool that students can use to enhance their critical thinking skills.

Sincerely,



Mary Stewart, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Zoology