

September 5, 2012.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of Yusef Ramelize. I have known Yusef for the past three years, first as an assistant production manager and then as the production/creative manager for two monthly publications, *BioProcess International* and *BioTechniques*. During this time, I have come to find Yusef to be a highly effective, as well as pleasant, colleague within our group.

Although Yusef's main position has been production manager, his primary skill set truly lies with his graphic design abilities; the conceptualization of difficult ideas and theories in both informative and visually pleasing ways. Yusef has spearheaded a number of design projects and advertising campaigns for the scientific journal *BioTechniques*, of which I'm the editor-in-chief, and he has never failed to both surprise and amaze me with his creations, and the impact those efforts have had upon our readership. Given a basic idea, Yusef is able to execute a series of images that are at first glance artistic and appealing while at a deeper level able to provide knowledge and insight into key scientific concepts.

I think it is also worthwhile to note that Yusef is a truly great humanitarian/organizer. During his time as a production manager here, Yusef started an effort, called "Homeless for a Week", wherein he spends a week each year raising money and advocating on behalf of homeless citizens by going homeless himself. This work has resulted in significant financial contributions to various shelter organizations working with homeless people, as well as increased media/news coverage focusing on the challenging issue of homelessness.

In the end, I strongly recommend Yusef for his creativity, design knowledge/skills, and attention to detail. I firmly believe that his abilities will be a valuable addition to any organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'N' followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that tapers to the right.

Nathan Blow, PhD.

Editor-in-Chief, *BioTechniques*