

July 13, 2021

Dear Dean Newsome and the Search Committee,

This letter confirms my interest in being a candidate for the California State University Sacramento, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies position. I have separately provided my CV and Contributions to Diversity Statement and provide below a brief narrative on my background, highlighting my educational, research, and leadership accomplishments.

I have more than two decades of experience with a Cancer Research Institute, National Laboratory, and California State University, and the University of California campuses. Upon completing my post-doctoral training at the Scripps Research Institute, I joined as a staff research scientist at the La Jolla Cancer Research Foundation (now Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute). My ability to work in inter-disciplinary sciences allowed me to have the privilege to serve as a Senior Scientist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Because of my interest in working with students and teaching, I joined the Fresno State University while engaging in biomedical research at the Department of Pathology, UC Davis School of Medicine, as an adjunct Professor. With my faculty colleagues' support, I have recently been elected as the department chair to commence from the AY 2021.

In the first two years of my tenure at Fresno State, I successfully brought in one of the most substantial NIH funding to Fresno State to build the 'Research Infrastructure for Minority Institutions - RIMI.' The three core areas of infrastructure include molecular & cellular proteomics, functional imaging, and high-performance computing. In addition, the center is continuing to serve the faculty & students of Fresno State, enhancing the research capacity.

As a designated Hispanic Serving Institution, Fresno State serves many underrepresented minority (URM) students. However, the trend of students obtaining a Ph.D. in the STEM areas does not reflect a similar diversity across the nation, particularly for Hispanic students in California. Working with faculty at UC Merced, I am leading a Bridges to Doctorate program by mentoring the M.S. students at Fresno State to transition to the Ph.D. programs at UC Merced successfully. In the seventh year of this grant, funded by NIH, our success rate is > 75% in URM students joining the Ph.D. in biomedical sciences. In continuing the effort to support graduate students, we are funded by a second Bridges to Doctorate Program with UC Davis by NIH (T32 mechanism).

In further extending the momentum, I am honored to inform that NIH has funded a similar program to support 12 undergraduate students each year, with the RISE program - Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancements. RISE will further enhance the research and educational training of URM students by increasing their self-efficacy to become successful in STEM. One of the focus areas that I am currently working on is collaborating with the Community Colleges to develop a Bridges to Baccalaureate program for the transfer students. With these efforts, my overall goal is to enhance the collaborative research & training across the educational pipeline- from Community Colleges to Ph.D. programs and then on to potential careers in science and technology.

I have also been funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) on major research instrumentation (MRI) grant to purchase a nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometer to build a metabolomics infrastructure at Fresno State.

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My research interests are in molecular biophysics and biostatistics, including data mining applications with investigator-initiated research on the metabolomics of the western diet in GI cancer (funded by NIH). With an improved infrastructure to study metabolomics, in collaboration with the plant sciences, we have recently received funding from the California Pistachio Research Board to investigate the molecular mechanisms related to the dormant period of the trees under select experimental conditions.

I have an active research group of graduate and undergraduate students with an established track record of more than 85 peer-reviewed publications and a comprehensive book on 'Biophotonics: Science & Technology' (With Dr. Yeh, World Scientific., 2018). In addition, my ability to integrate experimental work with data analytics has been fruitful in training several undergraduate and graduate students in continuing their higher education.

One of my strengths is the ability to work creatively and collaboratively with many constituencies. Over the last seven years, I have been serving as the Program Director for three major NIH-funded research training programs at Fresno State. I manage multiple research grants administratively with an annual budget of > \$1.0M by working with staff, faculty members, University administration, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Fresno State Foundation, and federal funding agencies. Considering assessment is integral for sustainability and student success, I recently received supplemental funding from NIH to develop an online evaluation tool focusing on a mentor-mentee relationship in collaboration with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness (OIE) and Kremen School of Education at Fresno State.

These experiences will potentially prove helpful in current and future efforts at Sac State to transform lives by 'preparing students for leadership, service, and success.' I firmly believe that my broad experiences and established record of accomplishments will allow me to undertake the tasks under the Dean's direction as the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. I am highly motivated to engage with the students, scientists, faculty, and administration to extend my services to the Sacramento region, where I have strong family and professional commitments.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to furthering discussions.

Best wishes,

Sincerely,

-- Krish.

Krish Krishnan, Ph.D.,
Chair-Elect (AY 2021 -)
Professor of Biophysical Chemistry
Graduate Coordinator – Chemistry & Biochemistry
Research Director, Research Infrastructure for Minority Institutions
Program Director, Bridges to Doctorate Program with UC Merced (NIH R25)
Program Director, Bridges to Doctorate Program with UC Davis (NIH T32)
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