

January 31, 2017

To whom it may concern:

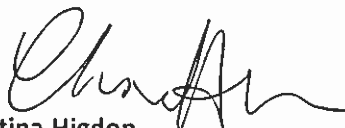
I am a past student of Rajat Maji's and can confidently consider him one of the best teaching assistants I have had. Rajat's enthusiastic personality and exceptional preparation for our laboratory course was demonstrated at every meeting time. He is an excellent leader, proficient student and overall outstanding person.

Every course meeting, we were greeted with Rajat's eagerness and a prepared summary of our experiment. He had helpful hints and certain precautionary measures outlined for us along with a thorough explanation of how the chemical reactions proceeded. Through his diligent drawings on the board and a brief lecture on the corresponding topics, we were able to carry on our experiments with confidence. His expectations for us were communicated clearly in the start of the year and were consistent throughout. Rajat was extremely cautious as well, allowing us to flourish and learn under his guidance. If equipment had been dropped, it was cleaned quickly. If a student was concerned about a corrosive chemical possibly spilling on their clothing or hands, Rajat monitored their safety and kept an eye out for any adverse reactions should they had come.

Rajat was also able to answer our questions very thoroughly. Normally, we were presented with challenging questions in Post-Lab problems. After attempting on our own, he could explain to us the details if we needed clarification. This was very useful, as some concepts he described were applicable in our lecture course as well. He encouraged us to voice any questions or to discuss with him after class about any issues that had caused confusion. It was clear that the material he covered in lab was aimed at extending our chemistry knowledge and even our general life knowledge. Rajat advised us on getting involved during our undergraduate years, exploring career options, and plugging into our communities. This was very impactful to me and other students, as typically most TAs seem to be focused on only their work at hand and simply completing the course. Rajat took a genuine interest in our future goals and asked about our other classes, endeavors, and encouraged us to also enjoy college. He had us share our aspirations and would often offer specific places to plug in, such as research or LinkedIn to further our connections.

I highly recommend any student to take Rajat's chemistry lab section, to be tutored by him, or to take advice he has to offer. I am a senior at Texas A&M University, anticipating to graduate Magna Cum Laude with a double major. I have recently accepted my admission into the Texas A&M College of Medicine where I will begin in the fall. I know that teachers like Rajat are what help to make this possible. He is very skilled in his position, well educated in chemistry, and an approachable, kind person. His personality was friendly and open to all in the class, but he led as a respected authority figure. Rajat was motivating to us and an excellent teacher. I am confident that he is capable and more than qualified for the University Distinguished Teaching Award.

Best,



Christina Higdon

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