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Dear Dr. Palacios,

This is a letter of opinion on the undergraduate program in Genomic Sciences at the University of Mexico. I am familiar with this program, having visited Mexico last year when I had a chance to meet with the students and learn about the program. I have since also had the pleasure of meeting students from the program at UC Berkeley.

On the matter of the curriculum, I find the program to be extremely well designed and well thought out. The introduction of students to the key quantitative aspects of the field: discrete mathematics, algebra, computation, and statistics is fantastic. Coupled with this, a strong programming components sets them up for a strong basis in the skills necessary for research in bioinformatics. Moreover, the selection of biology coursework is broad and effective. I personally consider this to be a model curriculum for other programs seeking to establish similar training here in the United States.

In my visit to Mexico, I was also very impressed with the quality of the students. They are clearly well prepared for research in computational biology, and indeed many of them already participate in research projects in local laboratories in Mexico. Furthermore, I was most impressed with their knowledge of material beyond their coursework- including relevant literature and journals.

In summary, I was impressed with the program and consider a model design for similar initiatives I am involved in here on our own campus.

Sincerely,



Lior Pachter