



2778 Agua Fria St., Bldg. C, Suite BC

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507

Phone: 505.424.1000

Fax: 505.424.8679

[www.qtlbio.com](http://www.qtlbio.com)

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Dr. Brett Kraabel for a position at your Institute. I have worked closely with Brett for a number of years, and can provide a very strong endorsement of his talents and potential for making a long-term positive contribution to your Institute.

I first met Brett while I was a postdoctoral researcher in Santa Barbara. Brett distinguished himself as a talented experimental problem solver. His technical work in physics and materials research has been widely cited. As an experimentalist, he quickly mastered the instrumentation in one of the most difficult areas of modern optics: the generation, measurement, and application to spectroscopy of femtosecond optical pulses.

After completing his Ph.D., Brett went on to do postdoctoral work in France, and then came to work in my research group at Los Alamos National Lab to undertake an extremely challenging project. From my experience, it is quite difficult within a postdoctoral appointment to both design and build a complex new instrument, and also to use this instrument to do groundbreaking research on new materials. Brett did both. In terms of his qualifications for your Institute, a significant part of Brett's job was to create and optimize a complex experiment which involved, among other things, using an Nd:YAG laser to amplify femtosecond pulses to seed an optical parametric amplifier, and designing an interface/data acquisition program for the experiment in C/C++.

I am certain that Brett will be successful in your Institute; he is highly motivated and dedicated to doing the highest quality work. Brett is also a pleasure to work with in personal terms; his demeanor is honest, soft-spoken, and humorous. I trust that you will find him to be an excellent addition to your staff. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have further questions.

Best regards,

Duncan McBranch  
Co-founder and President