

National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis

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Dear ORU Reviewers,

I am writing to strongly support the request of Professor Jack Dongarra for continued funding for UTK's *Center for Information Technology Research (CITR)*, which he directs. I have had a long and fruitful relationship with CITR. *The Institute for Environmental Modeling*, which I have directed for many years, was part of CITR at its inception, and though the relationship between these organizations has changed over time, we continue to maintain strong ties. Building up strong, sustainable research programs is a cumulative process, and the successes that we had at TIEM while working with CITR helped to lay the foundation for future achievements, including the two separate NSF-ITR awards that I've directed over the past seven years and, most notably, the recent major NSF award to create a *National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS)*.

The creation of NIMBioS opens up a numerous new research opportunities for UTK. NIMBioS has as a central theme the use of mathematical and quantitative methods, in combination with high performance computing, to explore a whole of range of questions about biological systems that were previously inaccessible because of their inherent complexity. Given its talented, innovative, and highly experienced staff, and its focus on high performance computing and computational science, CITR is ideally positioned to help faculty and staff (including postdocs) associated with NIMBioS, as well as faculty in various departments, make the most of the many opportunities emerging on this new research frontier. Consequently, I believe that enabling CITR to preserve and extend its outstanding record of research development and support for computational science is one of the most highly secure and productive ways for UTK to invest its limited resources.

Sincerely,

