

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
2101 NASA Road 1
Houston, Texas 77058-3696



Re: Dr Habil Arnold Gucsik, PhD
Researcher Fellow
Wigner Research Institute for Physics
Hungarian Academy of Sciences
H-1121 Budapest, Konkoly-Thege Miklós út 29-33.
Hungary

To Whom it may concern - Dear Madam/Sir:

This is a letter of recommendation for Dr. Arnold Gucsik, who I have known since 1997 when we met at the IGCP384 symposium in Budapest. Arnold and I meet each other occasionally on workshops and conferences, and I have seen many excellent presentations by him. With his research positions in Japan, Germany and the US, I have watched as his interests focused more and more on astrophysically-relevant materials, processes, and interpretation of astrophysical phenomena by laboratory analysis and experiments. Most recently, Arnold was invited to visit my research group at the NASA Johnson Space Center, where he presented his recent results on the shock wave history of asteroid Itokawa, which is a very exciting topic that was of special interest for our laboratory work.

Dr. Gucsik is an excellent scientist working on an unusually broad range of interests including luminescence and Raman spectroscopy, astromineralogy, dynamical and chemical formation processes of asteroids, and studies of the lunar regoliths. He has focused his experimental studies on many astrophysically-relevant materials such as silicate minerals, amorphous dust grains, transient species, and carbonaceous materials.

The discussions I have had with him were very stimulating for our work. He is a hard-working, motivated researcher. He has a sound background in spectroscopy, astromineralogy, and in planetary science. Recently he has successfully applied for Hayabusa samples at JAXA, which confirms his scientific reputation as JAXA is very stingy with their samples. Arnold has a very good record of publications in highly ranked journals. It is noteworthy to mention that he has also published two significant books on cathodoluminescence and micro-Raman spectroscopy of planetary materials. His scientific accomplishments on the spectral characterization of planetary materials with relation to dynamical processes are highly regarded within the astromineralogical community.

I would rate Dr. Arnold Gucsik's research as very innovative and I think that the Wigner Research Center for Physics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences could greatly benefit from his work on the

physics, mineralogy, and chemistry of planetary minerals and cosmic dust analog materials. With his knowledge and experience, he is an ideal candidate to design and carry out experiments relevant for planetary research. I strongly support his research activity in the field of the planetary sciences. I hope we will establish a fruitful collaboration the future.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael Zolensky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Michael Zolensky

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