Letter of recommendation for Avishai Henik

I completed my doctoral dissertation under the guidance of Prof. Avishai Henik in September 2005. The work dealt with spatial attention, specifically pertaining to the directing of spatial attention in response to eye orientation.

I trained to be a rehabilitative psychologist, and worked for a number of years in various settings as a therapist treating people with head injuries. I currently teach in a special education department at a teacher training college, and my courses cover a range of topics including the relationship between the human brain and behavior and the relevance of brain research to the field of education, amongst others.

Many years have passed since I finished my academic studies, and I can say with certainty that Avishai is one of the most impressive people I have encountered in academia. During the course of my research under Avishai’s tutelage, I absorbed a great deal of professional knowledge in a number of fields, from research to other parts of the brain sciences related to my own niche. Avishai routinely demonstrated creative and original thinking allied to extensive knowledge of current developments, which contributed greatly to the advancement of my research. He successfully combined professional work and personal guidance based on respectful and empathic relationships. I recall many exchanges with Avishai, from which I learned that the journey is no less important – and perhaps even more – than the final result.

The laboratory managed by Avishai incorporated different people from different cultures, and his personal relationship with each team member was always equal and fair. Even during stressful periods of intense work, it was apparent that the students’ welfare were always his main priority. Over the years, I came to see that Avishai served as more than just a research guide; he was also an educator who knew how to impart to me, and his many students, the professional knowledge and values ​​that accompany me in my work to this day.

I wish that all academic institutions knew how to foster such high caliber research scholars, and therefore I strongly recommend that the prize be awarded to Prof. Avishai Henik.