



Prof. Dr. Peter Littelmann
Weyertal 86-90
D-50931 Köln

Telefon +49 221 470-3715
Telefax +49 221 470-5114
littelma@math.uni-koeln.de

Cologne, October 14, 2010

Dear Professor Salvetti,

I recommend strongly and with enthusiasm Dr. Andrea Maffei's application for an associate professorship at your university.

I know Dr. Andrea Maffei personally, we have met and discussed on various occasions (for example as coauthors) during conferences, during the several visits of myself to Rome, and, more recently, during his 2-month visit to Cologne.

Dr. Andrea Maffei's main research interests are in Representation Theory and the theory of Algebraic Groups. His research interests clearly enhance your department's existing portfolio of strengths.

I have followed Dr. Andrea Maffei's academic carrier now for several years. All papers have been published in international journals, among them are internationally renowned (non-specialized) journals like International Mathematics Research Notices, Duke Mathematical Journal, Commentarii Mathematici Helvetici and Transformation Groups.

Dr. Andrea Maffei has obtained his international reputation by his excellent work which is mostly related to symmetric varieties. These varieties are an ubiquitous object in Representation Theory as well as in Algebraic Group Theory. The geometry of these varieties as well as the geometry of their compactifications are a central theme in the main stream research in Representation Theory as well as in Algebraic Group Theory. Among the various important contributions of Dr. Andrea Maffei let me just single out two examples, one being the proof of the projective normality of complete symmetric varieties (published in Duke Math. J.), the other being the proof of the conjecture of H. Nakajima relating two geometric constructions of the universal enveloping algebra of the Lie algebra \mathfrak{sl}_n and its representations (published in Comm Helv.). Last but not least let me also mention the joint paper with Dr. Andrea Maffei, where I have to admit that I was of help to

solve technical problems, but the completely new and central idea of the paper: to relate symmetric varieties to (possibly infinite dimensional) Grassmann varieties, is due to the coauthors. At the end of this very short review let me mention the latest preprint, where Dr. Andrea Maffei and his coauthors give a complete and, keeping in mind for how long this question was open, surprisingly simple answer, to the following question: given a semisimple group G and an irreducible finite dimensional representation V , under which condition is the closure of the image of G in $P(\text{End}(V))$ a normal projective variety respectively a smooth projective variety?

— The international reputation of Dr. Andrea Maffei is also underlined by various invitations to international conferences and workshops, like, for example, the invitation to participate in the special trimester program *On the Interaction of Representation Theory with Geometry and Combinatorics* at the Hausdorff-Research Institute for Mathematics in Bonn next spring. In his generation, Dr. Andrea Maffei has become a leader in his field of research. He is an excellent mathematician of highest level with important and significant contributions to his field of research. With his international standing, Dr. Andrea Maffei definitely meets the requirements for a tenured position as a professor at our university.

— Summarizing, I can only repeat my strong support for Dr. Andrea Maffei's application for an associate professorship at your university.

With best regards,

Peter Littelmann