19 March 2010

To the Graduate Council
University of Utah
CAMPUS

I am writing to convey my enthusiastic support for the creation of a Center for Parallelism at Utah (CPU). This Center will serve as a place of encounter and collaboration of a team of faculty from your School of Computing including Professors Mary Hall and Ganesh Gopalakrishnan. I have known Professor Hall for many years and have the most positive impression of her. She has an excellent reputation built on numerous accomplishments. I recently met Prof. Gopalakrishnan during the Indo/US Workshop on High Performance Computing that I organized as part of the PPoPP 2009 conference in Bangalore, India. He made an excellent presentation at the workshop and made important contributions to the discussions. My conversations with him during the workshop, as well as his presentations clearly show that he is both knowledgeable and accomplished. The participation of Profs Hall and Gopalakrishnan in the organization of the proposed Center is a clear indication that this is a promising enterprise worth supporting.

Computer Science is at the dawn of a new era when parallelism will be the norm. Without the use of parallelism at all scales of computing -- from embedded communication devices such as cell phones to supercomputers -- no future advances in computational speeds can be expected. CPU will assemble talent that can impact this highly important area -- much like our own UPCRC Center at Illinois. I have also seen all the excellent testimonials received by CPU, and strongly endorse its formation.

Finally, I would like to highlight the unique opportunity that CPU has in making an international impact in high performance computing. Given the tremendous upsurge in India's HPC standing, CPU is in a position to tap into the talent pool and other resources available in India. I can easily foresee CPU's international activities blossoming beyond India, reaching into other countries enjoying growth and success in HPC. I wish the participants in CPU all success and look forward to many years of fruitful interactions.

Sincerely,

David Padua
Donald Biggar Willett Professor of Engineering