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**To:** John Brockman <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Nick Pritzker <[REDACTED]>, Elon Musk <[REDACTED]>, "W. Daniel Hillis"  
<danny@appliedminds.net>, Jeffrey Epstein <[REDACTED]>, Larry Page  
<[REDACTED]>, Salar Kamangar <[REDACTED]>, Nathan Myhrvold  
<[REDACTED]>, Charles Simonyi <[REDACTED]>, Jeff Skoll  
<[REDACTED]>, Pierre Omidyar <pierre@omidyar.org>, Sean Parker  
<[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Re: Lisa Randall  
**Date:** Wed, 26 Aug 2009 21:53:58 +0000

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I have been part of the group trying to get her to come to Caltech, so I am too conflicted to offer objective advice. That said, Caltech is the clearly the right choice.  
-Danny

On Aug 26, 2009, at 9:24 AM, John Brockman wrote:

> Eastover Farm  
> [REDACTED]  
>  
> Nick, Elon, Danny, JE, Larry, Salar, Nathan, Charles, Jeff, Pierre,  
> Sean,  
>  
> Lisa Randall needs advice re a possible move from the Harvard  
> Physics Department to either Caltech or NYU, both of which have  
> extended job offers. She's unhappy at Harvard, where the department  
> seems to be intent on pulling the rug out from under her at every  
> opportunity, and she wants a change. I am writing to all of you  
> because I am out of my depth in advising her on her choices between  
> universities and physics departments, compensation packages, etc. In  
> this regard, it occurred to me that any of you might have good  
> advice and/or connections and that Lisa might benefit by talking to  
> you directly.  
>  
> Some background:  
>  
> I believe NYU has already matched her Harvard salary and just this  
> week, a donor put up \$5 million to build up the physics department  
> around her if she comes (i.e. adding two more senior faculty,  
> support services, etc.).  
>  
> She prefers Caltech, both for the department and the ambience of LA.  
> Their offer involves much less teaching but also less money. I have  
> advised her not to take a penny less than she is making now. If  
> there are resources available to allow Caltech to match her deal  
> with NYU, that would require someone who knows the department to  
> check it out (and that's not me).  
>  
> As Lisa's literary agent, as far as getting the attention of the  
> media and readers in general, Harvard is the gold standard, and  
> Caltech is high-value. But NYU is not even on the cultural map. (I  
> have exactly one client there and don't know of anyone to chase).  
> In any event, Lisa's next book is sold and this shouldn't be a  
> consideration in her decision. And in general, it hasn't hurt Steve  
> Weinberg and Shelly Glashow to have left Harvard.  
>  
> I know: Lisa is not easy. Some people are that way. But I say she's  
> worth it. And, in terms of science, we all need to do what we can to  
> give women a place at the table. It's not easy being a woman -

> perhaps the top woman - in theoretical physics, and nobody expects  
> her male counterparts to be regular guys (nor are they). As I have  
> said many times with regard to myself and the people I like to talk  
> to: "Nice isn't enough". (And that includes all of you!).  
>  
> Contact info:  
>  
> Lisa Randall  
> [REDACTED]  
> [REDACTED] mobile  
>  
> Best to all,  
>  
> JB  
> [REDACTED] mobile  
>  
> ~~~~~  
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