

## Supervisor's assessment of the Ph.D. dissertation of RNDr. Daniel Růžek

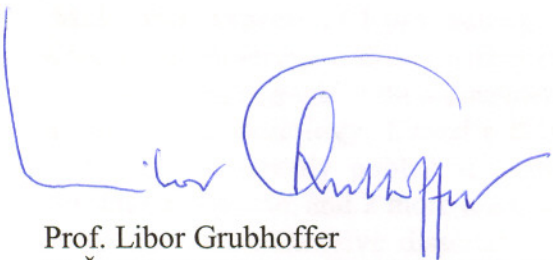
**RNDr. Daniel Růžek** has submitted a dissertation thesis for the Ph.D. degree entitled '**Molecular Aspects of Epidemiology and Pathogenesis of Tick-borne Encephalitis**'. He worked out dissertation thesis within last 3 years in the 'Laboratory of molecular biology of vectors and pathogens' with a considerable aid of Dr. Jan Kopecký and his laboratory at the Institute of Parasitology. Daniel's dissertation consists of 6 original research papers, 3 of those has been already published in prestige virological journals, another one is in revision in Virology magazine, and 2 more manuscripts getting nearly submission are included in order a broad and comprehensive dissertation thesis gets fully framed and accomplished. Besides already published articles of the high quality and manuscripts getting submitted soon Daniel has assembled and compiled an excellent introductory to the topic of tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) which I could clearly recommend him to publish it as a review article as well. He had enough courage to deal with the TBE topic not only based on modern data but also going to past and search for data from very beginning of TBE in central Europe and original Czechoslovakia right after World War II. Daniel's approach going to wider associations within an investigated subject as well as his ability to think out, set up and carry out demanding virological experiments, both *in vivo* and *in vitro* conditions, are clearly proving his outstanding talent for science and research work with highly infectious pathogens/viruses. Talking about Daniel's publications, what is really admirable is that he has so far published to the end of his graduate/doctoral studies altogether 6 publications in prestige 'impacted' magazines, another 2 having in revision (nearly accepted), and 3 abstracts from the important international conferences published upon 'peer review' in supplements of the prestige journals. Besides this, Daniel Růžek has achieved extraordinary respect based on his own highly active communication with leading scientists/virologists working on flaviviruses and other arboviruses. And therefore, he has given 5 invited lectures/seminars either at conferences or institutes/universities that he visited. I would not like to forget 10 poster presentations at international conferences and congresses.

Taken above mentioned items and circumstances together, I am pleased and delighted to pronounce a following conclusive assessment/judgement: Daniel is that guy, a gifted young scientist, who has been very likely born for virology, for the work with viruses of high infectivity, he is very much excited for that. Thanks to him, my laboratory switched once again for TBE and other arboviruses after years we were already doing something else. He came to me right after his bachelor diploma work defence (actually, working on human herpes viruses and differences in their affinity for the CNS Daniel got published in Clin Microbiol Infect) about 5 years ago with a clear thought to persuade me to conduct/guide his master thesis on TBE, and since that time we have aimed at the mechanism of TBE pathogenesis, molecular epidemiology and ecology.

In conclusion, I do believe that Daniel Růžek upon successful defence of his doctoral dissertation will benefit from his postdoctoral stay in the laboratory of Dr. Rebecca Rico-Hesse at the Southwest Foundation of Biomedical Research, San Antonio, TX, and once he is back in České Budějovice after a year or two Daniel will take advantage of his postdoctoral fellowship in the USA and proceed even more arbovirological research at the Institute/Faculty.

Last not least, I would like to thank Daniel cordially for such great job he has done while in our laboratorie, as well as to assure the defence committee that I have considered the dissertation thesis by RNDr. Daniel Růžek as that of outstandingly high quality, and therefore

I can clearly recommend it for its defence in order to give Daniel Růžek an academic title of Philosophiae Doctor (abbreviated as Ph.D.).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Libor Grubhoffer', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Prof. Libor Grubhoffer

In České Budějovice, September 28, 2008