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Supervisor' review of dissertation thesis by Silvie Foldynova-Trantirkova

Silva joined our lab in the time when we started playing with functional genomics in trypanosomes. Not surprisingly, after coming from the Palacky University in Olomouc, her background in molecular biology was not strong, while she knew quite a bit about zoology and parasitology and was hence more familiar with research in the terrain than at the bench. Yet from the beginning Silva's ambition to learn a lot was obvious, and she became quickly a key member of the lab. Her PhD topic was a substantial extension of my short-time project with David Campbell, who is among us today, on the function of the La protein and also other proteins involved in *trans*-splicing in *T. brucei*.

As it turned out, it was not an easy topic and since most people in our lab turned their attention to mitochondrial proteins, Silva found herself isolated to some extent and had to introduce a number of quite difficult methods to the lab for the first time. Moreover, I am far from being an expert on the subject, so David's guidance and Silva's self-reliance and perseverance were essential. As a consequence, Silva did three visits to David's lab in Los Angeles, where our line of research was usually corrected or redirected into a better direction.

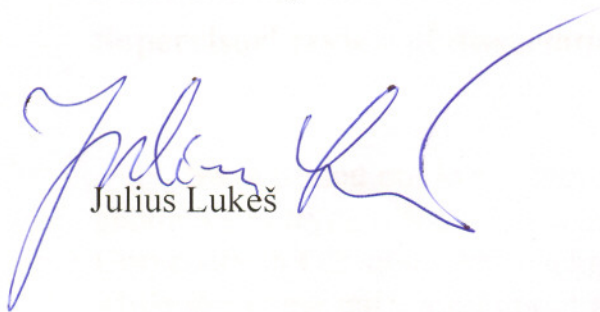
It is reassuring for me and David to see the impressive progress Silva has made in designing and executing experiments, communication, referring about her results and last but not least writing papers. As she plans her carrier in the academic world, these will be important qualities. As the senior PhD student in our lab, Silva helped many students and directly supervised the bachelor's of Petra. She was also an active contributor to our lab meetings

At a later stage of her PhD, with her sharp thinking, it was not difficult for Silva to be critical of the way things are done and the "authorities", which is something I fully respect. I gathered that at her present strenuous and demanding position, where she is responsible not only for managing the lab but also for planning experiments and having them done by students, Silva realized that not all the old boys were saying was off mark.

I would like to state that the presented dissertation thesis fulfils according to my opinion all postulations and I recommend it to be accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the Faculty of Biology of the University of South Bohemia. I even hope it exceeds

them, which has also been indicated by the reviewers. I am pretty sure that Silva will enjoy doing science and teaching in the future as much as she did so far. I also predict that the lab she is working in will not be called Lukas's lab, but Lukas's and Silva's lab, since I don't have any doubts that Silva will leave her mark in whatever happens in that lab.

December 12, 2006 in České Budějovice



Julius Lukeš