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Student evaluation:

**Barbora Konopová**

Barbora Konopova is an exceptional student and now also an outstanding young scientist. It has been a privilege for me to supervise her Ph.D. project.


Amongst Barbora's strengths are motivation, independence, diligence, and true interest in biology. Motivation is on top of the list, since I have met few students who were willing to pursue research with such vigor, giving everything else in their life a second priority. The next strength is independence. Barbora appreciates freedom to pursue her own scientific aims. When she joined my lab in 2004, she was trained in insect embryology and electron microscopy. She only needed initial guidance with basic molecular techniques. Once she mastered them, she used these methods independently to perform her research.

Barbora is extremely hard working. She did most of the work that constitutes her papers and produced lots of additional unpublished results. She helped tremendously to introduce into my lab the *Tribolium* model. Importantly, she was also able to prepare her manuscripts at a standard of writing that was unusually high among her peers. It is not as much her good English but rather deep understanding of the subject and clear-cut, razor-sharp logical thinking that allows her to write so well.

Besides Barbora's published work that mostly relied on established RNAi techniques in the *Tribolium* model, she also introduced RNAi to some insects that had not been subjected to the method before. Moreover, Barbora also devoted considerable energy and time to harnessing the virus Sindbis as a vehicle for RNAi application in various insects. At that time nobody could predict that all relevant species will also be resistant to the virus and thus that this project will crash and burn. However, although this work did not produce publications, I refuse to call it a failure. Discovering dead ends is valuable in biology, and killing a false idea is a very important achievement for a student. In fact, I value Barbora's effort in this unsuccessful direction just as much as I value her excellent positive results.

Barbora is an extremely promising young scientist with a broad knowledge of evolutionary developmental biology. I believe that she is prepared to tackle any problem in this modern but demanding field. I have no doubt that she will continue to excel in science, which she loves above all, and I wish her the best and brightest future.

In ČB, 12 November 2008

  
Marek Jindra