



May 17, 2007

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Re: Josef Vlasak

Dear Dr. Kopecký:

It is my great pleasure to provide an evaluation of the work completed by Josef Vlasak.

Josef joined my laboratory at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in 1998 as a Research Assistant. During his tenure in my group, Josef was extraordinarily productive in his research endeavors. He became an expert virologist who contributed his skills to several ongoing AIDS vaccine studies in monkey models. His experiments also included assessment of antibody responses, measurement of infectious virus in blood and tissue samples, preparation and quantitation of virus stocks, and generation of a new storage and database system. Mr. Vlasak had one of the most important functions within my research group, namely the coordination of the primate studies and data management. He became so highly skilled that I asked him not only to be our biocontainment suite manager but to also train students and post-doctoral investigators in molecular biology techniques and in biosafety laboratory practices. The productivity of our research group was greatly enhanced by the expert collaboration of Josef Vlasak over the three years. Josef always functioned at the level of an independent postdoctoral scientist. I was impressed by this thorough reading and understanding of relevant literature as well as his independent, critical thinking.

I was very happy to support Josef as he pursued his Ph.D. He and I were in contact on a regular basis to discuss his work. In addition, he and I wrote a paper "AIDS Vaccine Development and Challenge Viruses: Getting Real" that was published as an Opinion piece in AIDS in late 2006. I have always been impressed by the high caliber of Joseph's work. He is a pleasure to work with.

In sum, I have nothing but the best to say about Josef Vlasak's performance. He is an outstanding, creative scientist. Please feel free to contact me should you require further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Ruth M. Ruprecht'.

Ruth M. Ruprecht, M.D., Ph.D.  
Professor of Medicine  
Harvard Medical School and the  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute