



**Supervisor' review of Ph.D thesis by Shaojun Long**

December 7, 2009, Ceske Budejovice

All started with my interviewing Shao during my stay at an international conference in Guangzhou in summer 2005, where he responded to an ad that I have posted there. He was subsequently accepted into the Ph.D program of the Faculty of Sciences, University of South Bohemia, and since November 2005 did his research at the Institute of Parasitology.

After coming to our lab, Shao had a difficult task to open the research on Fe-S cluster assembly in trypanosomes, which we became interested in. Moreover, it was his first trip outside of China and his English was very poor, or perhaps I shall say indecipherable for me (btw. can you imagine coming to China and doing Ph.D there in Chinese?). So we first started communicating in writing, which worked well, yet we all were still facing challenges that were new to all of us. The misconception Shao came to our lab with was that here he is, on the other side of the world, in a new and thus strange environment, and that he has to succeed against the odds without looking to the left or to the right. It took us a while to convince Shao that in the lab we are all in the same boat and the success or failure of one member of the team is inescapably intertwined with others. Shao was a first full-time Ph.D student in our lab and I was also naïve, so we all had to learn to live together and make the best out of it.

However, since Shao is, in my opinion, a born scientist and a good man, we not only learned how to live together but became friends in the process. He was quick to learn all basic methods of molecular biology (he came already with a solid bench experience with protein overexpression and purification), and soon ventured into more difficult areas. Since the methodologies were mostly not established in our laboratory, it was Shao who singlehandedly introduced several methods, such as measurement of activities of Fe-S cluster proteins, measurement of iron concentration and others. Moreover, it was his stubbornness and capability of making things work that was critical for opening this line of research in our laboratory. He was undaunted by overcoming difficulties associated with novel approaches and by going in wrong directions, which was happening to us in the beginning all the time.



I can say that at present we are in a good position for future studies of the Fe-S cluster assembly in both the procyclic and bloodstream stages of trypanosomes, and it is mostly Shao who is responsible for that. In the last couple of months he was supervising Piya, who is taking over some of Shao's projects, and frequently discussing and sharing his experience with Zuzka and other members of the lab. This only reflects the fact that Shao's kind of selfish initial attitude has changed tremendously, and he became a team player, which will be important for his future research career.

Shao did a great job here, is moving on to new horizons and I wish him all the best in his future scientific endeavors, about the success of which I have no doubts.

Finally, 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 Sciences of the University of South Bohemia.

  
Julius Lukes