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Martina Hajdušková joined my lab in 2005 and since the beginning of her study, she was motivated to try something new. She, of course, had never handled the worm C. elegans before but she quickly got familiar with basic worm handling and started searching what could be interesting to pursue.

Although we did not have background of male tail differentiation and epidermal T cell polarity, she chose to tackle these developmental processes with the involvement of the nuclear receptor NHR-25. Then she demonstrated genetically very important findings e.g. NHR-25 is required for proper cell division patterning in epidermal cell lineage, NHR-25 can modulate Wnt/β-catenin signaling pathway in both positively and negatively depends on the tissue/cell type context. The mammalian homologue of NHR-25, called SF-1(Steroidogenic Factor) and LRH-1(Liver Receptor Homologue), is known to be involved in numerous developmental processes such as adrenal gland differentiation, XY sex reversal, cholesterol homeostasis, cripts renewal and obesity both in mouse and humans but no cellular mechanism has been shown. Martina will show in her presentation about the action of the worm homologue in single cell resolution.

Other than her main frame work, she contributed to other projects which is shown as "Unpublished data" in her thesis and it contains useful materials and information. These will be a contribution to a future paper once we have more complete stories.

She always tried to be independent and responsible for her projects and I believe these are very important features as a scientist. She has been helping me a lot for maintaining the lab and lab activities and I deeply appreciated. She also kept eyes on mutant and transgenic worm stocks and she was always reliable. I value that she is faithful to her data and she can think logical manner. She was not skilled in English when she joined but her improvement was impressive. She also have a lot of activities outside the lab work and keeps the balance in life. I believe that she deserves to obtain Ph.D and I have no hesitation to release her into much bigger scientific community. I truly wish her good luck for her future career.

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