

Supervisor's Evaluation of Sabine Kaltenbrunner

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Sabine came joined our laboratory in the fall of 2011 after I presented our research to that year's Biological Chemistry students. She represents the first student I supervised from this program, and I admit that I was initially very skeptical about their worth in the lab due to their extremely busy school schedules and the high likelihood that they would not continue after finishing their projects. However, this opinion was immediately turned around when she told me the reason why she came was because I stated that while we expect hard work and some level of commitment from the students, they have an opportunity to learn on organism we think makes a nice model organism, *Trypanosoma brucei*.

From the beginning, it was clear that she was willing to learn and invest time into her project. She started working in cooperation with Zhenqiu Huang, a PhD student in the laboratory. Their task was to tag some mitochondrial proteins to look for interesting localization. Unfortunately, they soon determined that this approach would not lend itself to a large scale study due to the low expression of the test cases that they studies, and that are a topic of her thesis. Thus, we decided to focus on discrete set of proteins with the goal of employed such techniques as FRAP and FRET.

We met quite often in lab meetings and journal clubs to get acquainted with these techniques that were to employed. Sabine displayed a willingness to read these difficult papers and understand the topics discussed. Her ability to synthesize information with what she had already learned in her studies in Linz and here was quite impressive. She was often quick to understand concepts, experiments and data that were challenging to me.

She was also hard worker in the lab, willing to try new things. She was very helpful in Zhenqiu's endeavors to build constructs for the project as well as introducing us to new techniques, such as the line scan of an image that was nicely employed in her thesis. Her efforts were instrumental in Zhenqiu developing a nice technique for imaging live trypanosomes, a challenge given their highly motile nature. We are now in the process of writing a manuscript that she will be a deserving co-author.

I conclude by saying that Sabine was a very enthusiastic and intelligent student and it was a real pleasure for me to be her supervisor. She is also a very pleasant person which made coming to the lab easier for me. I was very satisfied with her performance in the lab as well as the thesis she is defending. I would rank her among the best students I have supervised and whole heartedly recommend her for a bachelor's degree and the best grade on her thesis.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Hashimi', with a horizontal line drawn through the bottom of the signature.