Academy and University Center Nové Hrady

Department of Structure and Function of Proteins
Institute of Nanobiology and Structural Biology of GCRC
Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic

Prof. RNDr. Rüdiger H. Ettrich, PhD.

☎ +420 386 361 297 +420 386 361 279 ettrich@nh.cas.cz

POSUDEK ŠKOLITELE - SUPERVISOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Nové Hrady, August 27, 2013

To Whom it may concern

Maren Pflüger started her PhD thesis at the University of South Bohemia in the academic year 2006/2007. In this year, 10.10.2006, the rectors of the IMC Fachhochschule Krems and the University of South Bohemia signed an agreement that would allow students at IMC (which is not entitled to award PhD degrees) to enroll in biophysics at the University of South Bohemia and conduct their PhD thesis at the IMC Krems. Maren actually was the first student that enrolled under this agreement, and now is the first student from IMC Krems to defend her thesis in Biophysics. The specific conditions of the agreement made it necessary to have two supervisors, with me, Professor Dr. Rüdiger Ettrich, Ph.D., as the internal supervisor at the University of South Bohemia, elaborating the individual study plan, supervising the study progress and guaranteeing the quality of the conducted research according to the guidelines of the study program and me, Professor (FH) Mag. Dr. Harald Hundsberger, as the principal investigator of the research project and scientific supervisor at the IMC Krems. During her studies Maren Pflüger worked as a pedagogical employee at IMC and despite the enormous teaching workload she was always a reliable student able to conduct a huge amount of research and fulfill all study requirements. In her research work Maren was responsible for the establishment of cell based assays for the characterization of bioactive molecules especially in secondary metabolites form cyanobacteria. Cell based assays in general are becoming more and more important for drug development since toxic side effects can be detected early. In her studies Maren focused on the therapeutically relevant Nf kappa B signaling pathhway which is a key factor in human pathosphysiological conditions such as cancer and chronic inflammation. The established model systems were able to detect anti-inflammatory activities of compounds on human endothelium. During her PhD studies she was also closely collaborating with the Institute of Microbiology in Trebon (Dr. Kopecky). Together with the collaboration partners from Czech Republic Maren was able to clearly identify anti-inflammatory and non-toxic compounds from cyanobacteria. Maren has a remarkable publication list of nine peer-reviewed publications, seven of them impacted in Web of Sciences. On one publications that forms the core of the thesis she is the first author. All publications are carrying her home affiliations at IMC, which we must mention, as this was one of the points addressed in the agreement between both Universities, and are co-authored by her scientific supervisor. Her publications accumulated to date 37 citations excluding auto-citations (according to WOS), which shows that her research field and results are recognized by the scientific community. To sum it up, her studies and career until now and all the above mentioned clearly points to her ability to follow an academic career after finishing PhD.

We can confirm that Maren Pflüger fulfilled all pre-requirements for finishing her PhD studies, published her work in impacted papers, passed the state exam with success etc. We believe, that her research presented in the submitted thesis will convince the reviewers and the doctoral commission that Maren Pflüger fulfills also all demands needed for a successfull defense of her doctoral thesis. Certainly, **we can recommend her for being awarded the PhD-degree.**

Best regards,

Professor RNDr. Rüdiger H. Ettrich, Ph.D.
Director
Institute of Nanobiology and Structural Biology of GCRC
Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic

Professor (FH) Mag. Dr. Harald Hundsberger
Director Medical and Pharm. Biotechnology
IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems