



**Supervisor' review of dissertation thesis by Lucie Novotna-Ridlon**

Lucie joined our lab at a very early stage, as she walked in already as a 1<sup>st</sup> grader. Along with her highly motivated buddy, Zdenka Cicova, who is now finishing her PhD at the Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg, they threw themselves into the complexities of RNA editing and other processing in the mitochondrion of *Trypanosoma brucei*, under the joint supervision of Hassan Hashimi and myself. This was actually great, because they learned a wide range of basic molecular methods at an early stage.

However, since this is a methodologically rather demanding field, Lucie had to learn a wide range of molecular methods in order to become really productive. She managed that belongs to a few students at the faculty, who published their masters in two nice papers, both in RNA.

As it goes with ambitious students, after learning most of the RNA editing business, at least with the methodology available in our lab at that time, Lucie wanted to move on to another subject. After some discussion and deliberations, we decided to go for mitochondrial translation. I burned my own fingers on that topic long time ago, so was not that eager to dig into that elusive process, but a long term collaboration with Dmitri Maslov at the University of California, Riverside, who very much supported it and was willing to commit even to his co-supervision of Lucie's PhD project, we decided to go for it.

After preparing initial constructs and cell lines for several mito-ribosomal proteins, Lucie went soon after the start to California, the plan being one year long stay, during which she was supposed to learn some tricky methods very well established in Dmitri's lab, such as following the mito-ribosome and focus also at what he thought was some unorthodox complex of selected mito-ribosomal proteins.

As a matter of fact, that stay turned into a 3-years long one, during which Lucie fell in love with sunny Southern California and some Californian guy in that or reversed order. The concurrent stay of Inka Skodova (now married too) in the same lab kind of solidified the situation. Although I visited her soon afterwards, and discussed extensively the project with her, Inka and Dmitri, I left further development on the three of them. Indeed, I knew they will handle it well. Therefore, I am now passing the word to Prof. Maslov, who kindly sent yesterday his co-supervisor's opinion from the National Park Osa in Costa Rica (only the abbreviation is same with the Czech Republic). Quoted:



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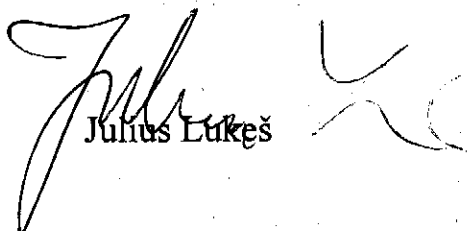
Lucie has been a valuable member of my lab since 2011. She was very enthusiastic about the project and spent long hours and weekends in the laboratory. This enthusiasm and devotion were the key to her having successfully finishing a rather challenging project and producing a first-author JBC paper. Another component of her success was her creative thinking and intellectual curiosity. On many occasions Lucie suggested interesting experimental approaches which would prove to be productive. She has also demonstrated excellent analytical skills working with literature for her thesis. Her interpretation of the data does not always coincide with mine and this is actually a good thing demonstrating her ability to think independently. Overall, it has been very rewarding to see her growing scientifically to become a first class researcher. I am sure she will have a productive and successful career as a scientist - she possesses all the qualities required.

At present, Lucie is working at a post-doc position in a young group at the prestigious Salk Institute in San Diego, one more good reason for having the PhD title in her pocket as soon as possible. In parallel with this by far not 8-hour job, it was not easy for her to put the thesis together, which may explain minor deficiencies in the quality of some parts of it.

During all those years, Lucie showed dedication to science, good thinking, hard work, and it was simply a pleasure to have her around. Therefore, I am glad to state that in my view the presented dissertation thesis fulfils 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, University of South Bohemia.

Thanks Lucko for your friendship and great work.

September 16, 2014 in České Budějovice

  
Julius Lukeš