



Academy and University Center Nové Hradý

**Department of Structure and Function of Proteins**  
Institute of Nanobiology and Structural Biology of GCRC  
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## POSUDEK ŠKOLITELE - SUPERVISOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Nové Hradý, September 21st, 2014

To Whom it may concern

**Vasilina Zayats** started her PhD thesis at the University of South Bohemia in the academic year 2007/2008 when she enrolled in the Biophysics study program to work under my supervision on the structure and function of cation translocation systems using computational modeling and simulations. Additionally, Thomas Stockner at the Vienna Medical University acted as a co-supervisor from the beginning, bringing in its huge expertise in homology modeling of ion channels. Her PhD studies included several research stays in the Vienna group.

Vasilina had participated in the summer school in Nove Hradý a year before joining our group, and had from the beginning a very clear mind about what to expect and how her PhD work could look like. Vasilina was always a very engaged student, highly motivated and from the beginning with broad knowledge in molecular and cell biology, and during her PhD she gained knowledge and training in computational biology and bioinformatics. She was always very eager to increase her knowledge and practical capabilities, and additionally to her thesis she took part in several smaller projects in the group, which resulted in two additional papers for her. To our assesment, her real strength is in the capability to collaborate with experimentalists. During her PhD she was closely collaborating with two experimental groups, the Romanin Lab in Linz, and the Ludwig Lab in Nove Hradý, and due to her broad background knowledge in biology she was always able to find the right language to communicate her results to the experimentalists, which is a rare gift and often one of the main problems in collaborative work between theoreticians and experimentalists. We think that both PI's would agree with us that she has a highly cooperative and helping attitude towards her colleagues and other fellows and that she would be a wonderful post-doc in an experimental biophysics lab, where she could contribute fully her theoretical expertise and gain maximum synergy. 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 **Vasilina Zayats** 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 **Vasilina Zayats** 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. Etrich, Ph.D.  
Director  
Institute of Nanobiology and Structural Biology of GCRC  
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Mag. Dr. Thomas Stockner, Ph. D.  
Institute of Pharmacology,  
Medical University of Vienna, Austria