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### **Master-degree work of Lucie Jonátová - Mentor's statement**

I met Lucie during her first year of studies at my freshman course when she was enrolled in the Protection of Environment program. However, she became very interested in molecular genetics and she showed an interest to join our lab. After she also joined our Department of Molecular Biology for her Master-degree program, Lucie picked up a slowly dying project in our lab studying a role of the *Dco/CKIε* gene. This project was difficult from its beginning when we tried to re-create human cancer mutations in *Drosophila*. We eventually demonstrated that these mutations indeed cause cancer-like phenotypes in epithelial tissues but due to a lack of support from the grant agency we were forced to abandon this project. However, the re-created human mutations caused an additional phenotype in the fly hematopoiesis. The role of the *CKIε* gene in hematopoiesis was never studied and Lucie agreed that she would try to get a better picture using our *Drosophila* model. Just a basic characterization of the mutant phenotypes turned out to be an overwhelming work and Lucie showed her incredible stubbornness to get it done. But she also showed her scientific curiosity although she would always say that it was just my never-ending encouragements to tackle this interesting idea and that interesting result and so on; very often she did not need my encouragement, she could not help her own curiosity.

In summary, she did an amazing amount of work, the last half a year being in the lab everyday till late night. And I watched her continuous scientific growing (complemented with her health decline at the end). However, I was worried about putting all her results together into a master thesis, especially due to a fact that during her writing I was already gone in USA. And another pleasant surprise came – the first draft, although not without mistakes, was very readable and quite clear. Nevertheless, we had long discussions over skype and via emails and here again, I think Lucie learnt a lot and I see all that time as very worthy.

It is probably not surprising if I add that Lucie is a wonderful person who brings a lot of joy to the lab. I am sure that she deserves Master degree and I hope that she will be able to continue in this project because overall, we are just at the beginning of something what could become an exciting story of the *Dco/CKIε* role in hematopoiesis and hematopoietic malignancies.

In Stanford, January 16, 2013

Mgr. Tomáš Doležal, Ph.D.