

When Honza first arrived in the lab, he was a quiet and timid student, even though he had already begun a MSc program in another lab. Since I was his immediate supervisor, I was afraid that it was because of the language barrier, but I soon realized that Honza has a great mastery of the English language. Since he genuinely seemed interested in science and clearly showed enthusiasm to accomplish something during his MSc, we realized that we simply needed to spend more time discussing the aims of the project and what the purpose of each experiment was. After a slow start, something clicked and Honza began to demonstrate his understanding of the significance of his experiments and the pieces of the puzzle he was adding with each new data point. It quickly became apparent why Honza switched labs during his studies: because he truly yearned for the opportunity to perform bench work. So much so, that he frequently performed assays late into the evening and over the weekend. Furthermore, he expressed his gracious attitude and helped enormously with fulfilling the routine and thankless tasks in the lab that are required for a larger group to work efficiently. During his time in the lab, Honza has implemented numerous methods to answer specific questions related to his project and in doing so has proven that he has one of the most important skills for a young scientist – golden hands. It was also enjoyable to watch Honza hone some of the other requisite skills of a successful scientist. For example, Honza hates the stress of giving a presentation in front of others. However, after several journal club and lab meeting presentations, Honza was awarded the best MSc presentation at the 2013 Protodny international conference. Quite an achievement for Honza. Honza also exhibited that he can write quite well, taking relevant information from other journal articles and incorporating it into his own thesis. That being said, it took him a long time to make much progress on his writing and it appears that this is another obstacle that Honza will have to overcome in the future. Also, as most young scientists, I believe Honza still needs to continue to develop his critical thinking and understand what direction the project should take after the results from each experiment are interpreted. In the end, we were very pleased with Honza's scientific growth and accomplishments, so much so, that we encouraged him to stay in the lab for his PhD. At last, Honza has decided that based on his skill sets and personality, a job in the real world is more suitable. We wish him the best of luck in the future and would like to remind him that the door is always open.

Brian Panicucci

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