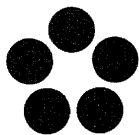


### Statement of the master/diploma thesis supervisor

I am so pleased and delighted to present a supervisor's statement on the master/diploma thesis submitted by Mr. **Alejandro Cabezas-Cruz**, DVM and entitled "Cellular and molecular characterization of *Ehrlichia mineirensis* (UFMG-EV), a new organism isolated from *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* ticks. Alejandro worked out his master/diploma thesis as a "Early Stage Researcher" of the POSTICK project (POSTICK – Training Network on Ticks and Tick-borne Diseases. FP7-PEOPLE-ITN Marie Curie project, 2010-2013, Acting Coordinator/PI: Prof. Lygia M. F. Passos) in the Institute of Parasitology AS CR as well as a student of Parasitology (English curriculum) at the Faculty of Science of the University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice. First I would like to acknowledge great effort and outstanding merit of Professor Passos who initiated the POSTICK project, made the proposal and succeeded in extremely competitive contest. Thanks to that we could recruit so called "Early Stage Researchers" including Alejandro who is one of the first who submitted his thesis for defence. Alejandro took opportunity and joined the POSTICK project in mid of its duration in beginning of 2012 when two additional ESR positions for master degree students were opened by steering committee of the project. Professor Passos and I took advantage of such possibility and joined our research capacity for the Alejandro's subject – molecular and structural/ultrastructural characterization of the new *Ehrlichia* species isolated from *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* tick in Lygia's laboratory in Brazil. Besides Lygia I would like to acknowledge contribution of Dr. Erich Zwegarth from Munich, Dr. Marie Vancová from the Laboratory of Electron Microscopy, and Dr. Natalia Rudenko, in whose lab Alajandro was working on his experimental as well as *in silico* parts of the diploma project. Since Alejandro joined our lab and started to commute between Budweis and Munich he has worked so hard and efficiently. Rather quickly he caught up a delay which he started with, and initiated a few beneficial side projects with other laboratories. Since very beginning of his stay with us Alejandro became a type of phenomenon in personal point of view, extremely polite and humble gentleman, very sunny guy, who is always beaming good mood, having developed such rate of empathy which is really rare. Concerning science and a focus on research tasks. I have considered Alejandro as of highly motivated and gifted young researcher who has such great future in front of him. Therefore, I am so pleased that we could be a part of a route that he has taken on the way to more advanced challenges in life sciences, let's say to noble science in infectious biology.

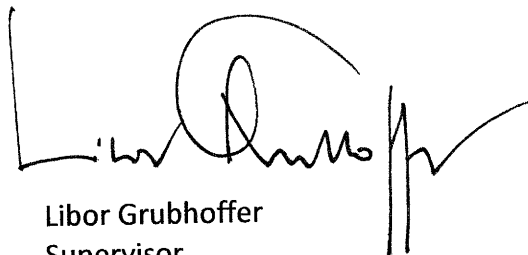
What is really remarkable that Alejandro has put together in his master/diploma thesis results including three publications that have highly overcome regular requirements for master/diploma thesis, and have met demands we have required for Ph.D. thesis. In addition, two more articles has been published in meantime, altogether five publications in respected scientific journals plus four posters and two oral presentations at conferences in abroad (see attached report). Alejandro, hardworking, diligent, clever and always willing to help to others in his vicinity. I bet that I am talking on behalf of the whole staff of our laboratory/Institute that all of us will be missing Alejandro a lot.



Jihočeská univerzita  
v Českých Budějovicích  
University of South Bohemia  
in České Budějovice

prof. RNDr. Libor Grubhoffer, CSc.  
rektor

In conclusion, hereby I would like to recommend the master/diploma thesis submitted by Mr. **Alejandro Cabezas-Cruz**, DVM for defence within the final part of his study in master degree curriculum of Parasitology.



Libor Grubhoffer  
Supervisor

In Ceske Budejovice, September 21, 2013

Attached: POSTICK last report (Alejandro Cabezas-Cruz)