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In August 2017, toward the end of Rudy's almost year long stay within my working group at the Lukeš lab, he asked me for constructive criticism about him as a student. I think this is a very telling story. For one, it occurred during a lab celebration; yet even in this fun environment Rudy was willing to talk business, a vital skill for networking at scientific conferences. It also demonstrates that Rudy is willing to work on himself and is mature enough to seek criticism for this goal, which most of us try to avoid. And it is quite telling that I could not really find an answer to his query.

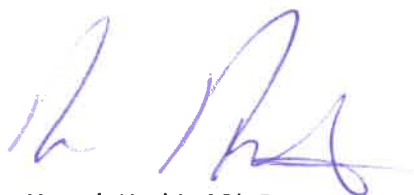
Rudy has been an excellent student. Since entering the lab in the fall of 2016 he was a very motivated student and hard worker. He participated in a project characterizing novel subunits of the *Trypanosoma brucei* MICOS complex, shown to be important for cristae biogenesis in yeast and animals and hypothesized to have the same role in other eukaryotes. Specifically, he established in the lab the high-throughput generation of RNAi-constructs using Gibson cloning in the lab, transfected cells with these constructs, measured *T. brucei* growth in fermentable and non-fermentable conditions and assayed steady state levels of 6 mitochondrial proteins at 4 different RNAi time points of MICOS targets. In collaboration with of Iosef Kaurov, his co-supervisor, Rudy used this pipeline to study 8 proteins, a considerable amount of work indeed. His tremendous efforts not only resulted in the well-evaluated thesis he is defending today, but was an valuable contribution to a manuscript we are currently shopping around to higher profile journals.

I really enjoyed collaborating with Rudy. He was from initial stages of his thesis project completely engaged in all aspects of the project, not just the part he was directly responsible for, and in science in general. He was continuously proposing ideas for experiments or interpretations of results, which is a quality that even many doctoral students lack. Many of these ideas were shot down by his demanding advisor, and done so with glee. This was not because I take any joy in such actions, but that Rudy's motivation and initiative brought about these ideas in the first place. This is an excellent quality that cannot

be taught. I also feel that in time and with more experience, Rudy's ideas will become more refined and informed by accrued knowledge and experience, and thus more likely to be implemented.

Thus, I can only say in response to Rudy's query mentioned at the beginning of this evaluation, please keep these ideas coming and also continue to be open to constructive criticism of them. I feel that you will achieve the next stage in your career by going along this same path. And no need to rush. If you keep along this path, this goal will be achieved sooner, not later.

I conclude by saying in my opinion, Rudy has fulfilled the requirements for obtaining a Bachelor's degree at the University of South Bohemia, Faculty of Science and recommend to the evaluating committee that he gets the grade "excellent."



doc. Hassah Hashimi Ph.D.
In České Budějovice
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