

February 26, 2020

Supervisor's assessment of the doctoral thesis of RNDr. Jana Elsterová

RNDr. Jana Elsterová submitted a doctoral thesis titled: "Pathogenesis and clinical aspects of tick-borne encephalitis virus infection" for a defence procedure at the Department of Medical Biology at the Faculty of Science, University of South Bohemia. The work was partly done at the Institute of Parasitology of the Czech Academy of Science, and at the Department of Virology of the Veterinary Research Institute in Brno. First of all, I would like to say that according to my opinion, Jana Elsterová submitted a doctoral thesis of excellent scientific quality. The thesis is based on seven scientific publications, six of them are already published in impacted scientific journals. Moreover, Jana is an author or co-author of additional five papers not included in the thesis. An introduction of the thesis represents a nice overview of recent literature and could be submitted as a separate review article. During her doctoral studies, Jana was involved in several projects, mostly focused on pathogenesis of TBE and analysis of clinical samples from patients with TBE. Jana did an excellent job during communication with clinicians and analysis of patients' data. She was also involved actively in recruitment of patients and processing of their blood samples, which resulted in literally outstanding discoveries, not included in the thesis, but being under preparation for publication in some leading scientific journal.

Behind the main scope of her doctoral project, Jana was also interested in the field virological work – she participated in a series of scientific expeditions to Spitsbergen organized by the Centre of Polar Ecology. This activity resulted in two publication and one book chapter published in her co-authorship.

Jana's work was cited more than 160x and her h-index is 7.

Jana worked on this Ph.D. project independently, planned and organized the experiments by herself, analysed the data, and contributed to preparation of the manuscripts for publications. She presented her results at several international conferences in the form of posters.

Jana is a motivated and talented young woman. During her doctoral studies, she did a large amount of experimental work, which resulted in number of discoveries published in prestigious journals. Jana is an integral member of our team, involved in several lab activities, and she is also liked by her peers in the lab for her friendly and fun-loving personality.

In conclusion, according to my opinion, Jana Elsterová submitted a doctoral thesis of very high quality and fulfilled all requirements for the academic degree "philosophiae doctor", abbreviated as Ph.D.



Daniel Růžek, Ph.D.