



**Biology Center**  
**Czech Academy of Sciences**  
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To whom it may concern:

Mr. Jan Kotal is an enthusiastic, hardworking and intelligent student with good scientific acumen and research base. His doctoral work focused on the effects of tick salivary compounds on host homeostasis with emphasis on the immunological aspects of the specific interaction. This work provided unique insights into the role as well as the effectiveness of tick salivary proteins in host (immune and not only) modulation and we have together published some interesting papers out of his study.

Based on his work in my laboratory it is obvious that he has contributed productively to the research topic of the team and he was a valuable asset to the Institute. He has good laboratory skills and has first-hand knowledge in molecular biology, cell biology and immunology. His academic performances have been excellent. He has tremendous interest in the field of tick-vertebrate host interaction and keeping with his areas of interest he has regularly participated in various conferences and workshops and undergone first-hand training. He takes initiative where others wouldn't and I have found him to be a fast learner. He has high research aptitude, and this is evident from the various projects he has undertaken during his doctoral programme. This is ample proof of his creative strength, diligence, perseverance and hard work, which one cannot encounter even in top niche students.

Honza is not only one of the most sincere and humble graduate students I have known, but also a prospective researcher with fine communication and interpersonal skills. His laboratory skills are very good and can design and execute experiments very independently. He works well in teams and is very cooperative. He has immense potential as a future researcher who can run projects quite independently, constructively and productively.

I have no hesitation in ranking Mr. Jan Kotal as one of the best candidates with whom I have worked with and known. I am quite sure that given an opportunity, he will be an asset to any University/Institution. I strongly and enthusiastically recommend his PhD thesis award.

Yours sincerely,

Michail Kotsyfakis PhD