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Supervisor evaluation on PhD student Ivan N. Ivanov

Mr. Ivan Ivanov, MSc. joined our laboratory in 2013 to work on his master thesis. At that time, he was a student of Bremen University of Applied Sciences in Germany under International Study Program in Industrial and Environmental Biology. Soon after joining our lab, he became a valuable addition to our team and started working on a project dealing with directed synthesis of storage lipids in the green alga *Parachlorella kessleri*. During his time, he worked most enthusiastically and very soon became independent so that he was able to plan and successfully perform experiments of his own, analyze and interpret the data. All this being said, we were delighted when Ivan Ivanov decided to join our lab to pursue his doctoral degree. His PhD project was a continuation of his work on energy reserves produced in algae and it was particularly focused on the role of energy reserves and other macromolecules in the control of cell cycle entry. After his master thesis work in algal biotechnology, Ivan learned another valuable lesson of his scientific career, that of importance of basic research. However, given his personal interest in the field of algal biotechnology, he particularly enjoyed the part of his PhD work, which involved cell cycle manipulation producing enormous amount of starch and have clear biotechnological implications. During his PhD work he exploited the basic microbiology and algal cultivations methods, which he mastered during his master work. Furthermore, he developed and optimized biochemical analyses of lipid and starch contents in algal cells and learned his lesson in algal synchronization and cell biology and biochemistry methods analyzing cell cycle progression. Although his PhD thesis project was that of basic science, Ivan's heart has been with the algal biotechnology. This was reflected in his choice of PhD internships firstly at our collaborators laboratory at the University of Tokyo and later in AlgaeParc facility of Wageningen University, the European algal biotechnology hotspot.

Ivan Ivanov is devoted and motivated scientist with cheerful personality. He is creative and results oriented, which he proved by development and optimization of new biochemical methods in our laboratory. He is hard working, independent and always keen on learning a new method; also there is no work he would consider to be too small for him to perform. His training gave him strong background data synthesis and presentation which helps him when sharing data and explaining to his peers or mentees. He has been also an enthusiastic,



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meticulous and devoted mentor. I consider Ivan Ivanov fully mature and a very pleasant person with very well developed social skills and a drive for communication. I also consider him a mature scientist, which he proved by organizing and running experiments and publishing his data in scientific journals. If we view science as a trade controlled by a guild of "masters". Ivan Ivanov, in my opinion, completed his training, fulfilled all the legal pre-requirements and after a successful thesis defense he will be ready to start his life as an independent scientist, a scientific journeyman.

Kateřina Biřov