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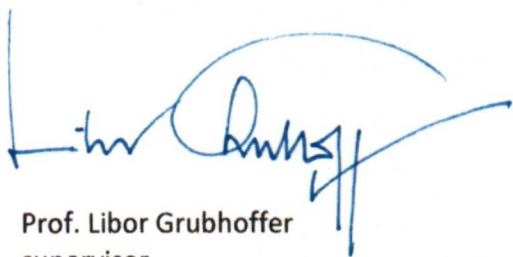
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Supervisor's statement to the dissertation of Mgr. Martin Selinger

Mgr. Martin Selinger worked out and submitted his dissertations entitled '*Molecular Factors of Cell Antiviral Immunity*'. Martin's doctoral thesis meets both formal and content requirements for PhD thesis in Molecular and Cell Biology and Genetics. His thesis is a collection of five peer-reviewed communications published in respected scientific journal; four of them are original research articles (*Virus Genes*; 2x *PLoS Negl. Trop. Dis.*; *J. Gen. Virol.*), one is a review article (*Parasite & Vectors*), Martin is the first author in two cases of above mentioned research articles. The thesis was completed by its author with other obligatory parts/required chapters including a comprehensive and very nicely worked out introduction to a subject of the dissertation as well as discussion and overview of results including further plans. The thesis is written in very nice English, and has all the features of a rigorously carried out work. Working precisely and always doubting correctness and validity of results obtained in his experiments is one of the main Martin's character trait. His work is absolutely reliable; Martin's *in vitro* or *in vivo* experiments are always well thought out and designed for practical realization, some of those under demanding BSL-2/BSL-3 containment measures. Martin conformed his great talent for molecular virology, it is such great pleasure to watch him working in the lab, or teaching students in laboratory courses.

Certainly, it is no coincidence that Martin first appeared in a laboratory at the Biology Centre while being still a high school student, and he instantly fell into the magic of molecular biology. Afterwards he decided to study at the Faculty of Science here, and remained faithful to the Faculty and BC for his doctoral studies. Martin joined our Laboratory of molecular ecology of vectors and pathogens in 2013. At the beginning we focused on the topic of tick-borne encephalitis virus and its interaction with cells of neural origin, especially interested in molecular factors of innate immunity/defense of host cells against TBEV, its replication and ending of the replication cycle. This former topic was a bit later extended by virus Zika (ZIKV) based on Martin's successful internship in the laboratory of Professor Alain Kohl at the University of Glasgow. Thanks to Martin we could launch mutually beneficial partnership with the Alain's research group. Professor Kohl was even so kind to care about Martin as his co-supervisor/consultant. I appreciate very much an established partnership with Professor Kohl's laboratory. Also thanks to this opportunity Martin succeeded in fulfilling the objectives of his dissertation project. Martin's thesis provides novel insights into the response of neural cells to TBEV infection and the antiviral action of interferons, type I and III. Moreover, new findings about TBEV-host interaction at the transcriptional/translational level (description of TuORF factor; ZIKV sRNA expression profile and its potential antagonistic effect in host cells; possible role of the C protein localized in the host cell nucleolus in transcriptional/translational shut-off).

In conclusion, **Mgr. Martin Selinger** submitted doctoral thesis of the high quality, having fulfilled all other requirements within the doctoral program of Molecular and Cell Biology and Genetics. Therefore, I am pleased to recommend with the best conscience the Martin's thesis for defense as basis for the title of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D. in brief).



Prof. Libor Grubhoffer
supervisor

V Ceských Budejovicích, December 19th, 2019