

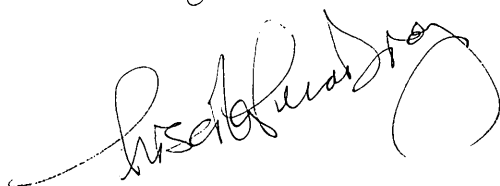
Supervisor Statement

Tomaš arrived at the Lukes' lab in the fall of 2016. During that period I was to hire two students for a joint project with Jan Pyrih and a collaboration team from the University of Oxford. Julius and I had envisaged to make a big RNAi screen of kDNA-related proteins and cherry-pick those prominent ones with unknown function that could enrich the existent knowledge of the biology of this organelle. The collaboration with Oxford would provide the preliminary data we required: kDNA-localised proteins, annotated with unknown function, to be in-situ tagged and functionally characterised. The first set of data we received was a group of 9 proteins that were kDNA/mitochondria-associated and had been localised with an N-terminal tag by live imaging. Honza, Tomaš, Lucia and I started to work. Since the study had been done with live imaging, co-localisation with organelle markers was required, and we had the antibodies and tools to work fast.

This was the start of the training of Tomaš with in-situ tagging, for the purposes of localisation; cloning of RNAi constructs to determine whether the protein was essential for the parasite; and tissue culture techniques for parasite transformation. He was meticulous and careful to work; too careful at times. His way of working clashed with mine, as I like to work fast and multitask. Yet he adapted and learned with my other student who was also working in related proteins. The protein he was allocated expressed lower than the others we had tagged and detected with the same antibody and seemed to have differential expression depending on whether it was N- or C- terminally localised. Also, the cloning of his RNAi construct took longer to achieve than expected. Tomaš had to learn persistence and problem solving the hard-way. He did not expect that his project had to have so much troubleshooting and this seemed to frustrate him. The fact that his health took a turn for the worse in those days did not help. He took a leave of absence of months to recover and upon his return, his labmate had left, and work was more exhausting than usual. The fact that I was not readily available anymore as my duties pulled me to the desk rather than the bench, did not make things easier for him.

Regardless, learning independence, he did pull through, though the lesson was tough. By the time his project was finishing I was due to leave Ceske Budejovice. Analysing data and writing it as a manuscript was the last bit of the hike. Yet, discussion after discussion over email, he managed the finish line. Unifying data and reading it as a whole was the last exercise and he managed to understand and discuss his own results in a different light. Now, he is ready to close the chapter and move on.

Ceske Budejovice, 23 January 2019



Grade 2
(very good)