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Supervisor's report on MSc. Jiří Kyslík

Jiří Kyslík joined our group in 2012 as an undergraduate student and during this time began to characterise the phylogenetic relationships of myxozoans based on mitochondrial genes. In his master's thesis, he continued a similar theme and based his phylogenetic reconstructions on the taxonomically restricted genes (TRGs) - nematogalectins. We found the research on TRGs interesting and decided to expand this topic for Jiří's PhD thesis, in which he functionally characterised TRGs.

Jiří is my first student to be supervised by me from undergraduate to PhD. Therefore, I am able to observe his entire early research career and I am very happy to see that he has grown into a very talented young researcher who has a clear vision of his future scientific direction. After relatively slow progress in the first year of his PhD studies, he devoted himself entirely to his work until the end of his PhD studies. He also participated in the research of the Notch signalling pathway as a member of the team of Alena Lövy project and successfully introduced the methodology of RNAi in Myxozoa as part of Anush Kosakyan's project. This required much more work than would be necessary for a regular PhD programme.

I greatly appreciate Jiří's enthusiasm and independence in learning new methods during his doctoral studies. This is a very important feature and a prerequisite for any outstanding scientist. Jiří was successful in obtaining EMBO support for his three-month stay at the Department of Marine Biology at the University of Haifa, Israel, where he studied a biopolymer necessary for tube extrusion in cnidarian nematocysts. Jiří successfully presented his research (Expressional profiling of minicollagens during myxozoan development) at the 19th International Conference on Diseases of Fish and Shellfish in Porto.

The only criticism I would like to make at this point is that the writing of the first manuscript was tedious and required a lot of revision, but I must admit that Jiří has greatly improved in the compilation of his second manuscript. Anyway, this is typical for almost all PhD students and I appreciate that Jiří made a great effort to improve his scientific writing.

Finally, I would like to emphasise that Jiří is not only an important member of our lab, but also a very nice person who is a pleasure to work with. He is always eager to help other people. I wish him every success in his future career and keep my fingers crossed for his application for a PostDoc position in Dr Tamar Lotan's excellent lab in Israel. I am convinced that with his published and as yet unpublished data, Jiří meets the criteria for awarding a doctorate from the Faculty of Sciences of the University of South Bohemia.


RNDr. Ivan Fiala, PhD

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