

Name of the student: Lirik Behluli

Supervisor's statement

Lirik started working on his project in October 2021 and completed it within seven months. His topic was to analyse real and potential oocyte expression of a DNA methyltransferase co-factor Dnmt3l across mammalian species. This was a very relevant analysis to be done, as according to the studies conducted solely in mouse as a classical mammalian model, Dnm3l is considered an essential factor for mammalian de novo DNA methylation in the oocytes - despite the fact that Dnmt3l was later shown to be silent in human oocytes.

During his project, Lirik acquired skills in gene expression quantification, work with next generation sequencing data analysis tool Seqmonk, work with Ensembl genome browser and Ensembl and NCBI databases, multiple sequence alignment, sequence analysis, using Python scripts, and he independently developed a script for analysis of a local conservation. Lirik worked hard, was motivated to get the work done, and showed the interest for the topic. He clearly demonstrated his bioinformatics capabilities, and his results represent an important part of a publication currently in preparation.

At the beginning of the project, Lirik warned me that he had no experience in scientific writing. Putting thesis together in the current form was relatively difficult, but he made a big progress from the first to the last draft. I believe he got the important experience and therefore it will be easier for him in the future. Nevertheless, there are still parts of the thesis that could be improved more, and for the future, Lirik would benefit from a better organisation and management of his own results. I think this is generally more difficult for bioinformaticians compared to wet lab biology students for which it is more straightforward to keep a labbook with their protocols and results.

Overall, my impression of Lirik was positive, and he clearly showed she is highly capable of bioinformatic work. I recommend her thesis for defence.

In České Budějovice, on 4.5.2022

Mgr. Lenka Gahurová, Ph.D.