

Dear chairmen of the committee,

This is to let you know of the supervisor's evaluation of the student Solomia Pylypchuk and about her bachelor thesis entitled as "Molecular cloning, expression, and purification of the tick salivary serpin IRS-7".

Ms. Solomia Pylypchuk has proved to be a very enthusiastic, hardworking and intelligent student and young scientist. Given that her bachelor project was her first exposure to molecular biology laboratory, Solomia was able to work reasonably independently and with her own initiative. During the work on her bachelor thesis, Solomia learned a variety of important molecular biology experimental techniques that can definitely be of importance in her future plans and career.

Her bachelor thesis is focused on expression, purification, and partial characterization of a representative of serpin inhibitors from a tick *I. ricinus*. This work helps to shed more light on the field of serpin inhibitors in ticks and blood feeding parasites in general, which is recently been a research focus among scientists. Solomia presents a decent amount of work as a part of her thesis and some of her data could be used as a basis for a future research paper. I was positively surprised by Solomia's English scientific writing skills, when she was clearly able to summarize available literature and her data in a thesis. Based on her good lab performance and quality of writing, I feel confident that she understands the tick serpin field in sufficient depth.

Solomia has my respect for how she was able to work on her thesis under difficult conditions during Covid pandemics when the access to labs was sometimes limited, and with her supervisor being busy finishing PhD studies and starting as a postdoc abroad. On the other hand, these circumstances have taught her to work in a more independent and efficient way.

Solomia has proved to be a friendly and easy-going person, always enthusiastic and curious about the next steps of her project. She responded well in my comments and requirements during her research and writing of her thesis. In conclusion, I am happy to strongly recommend her thesis defence and assuming her exams go well, awarding her with a BSc. title.

Yours sincerely, Jan Kotál, PhD.

In Hamilton, Montana, USA, September 15th 2022