

Physiopathologie Hépatique

Inserm U632, Univ-Montp1 EA3768

1919 Route de Mende

34293 Montpellier Cedex 5

Tel: +33-(0)4-6761 3363

Mob: +33-(0)6-8668 1163

Fax: +33-(0)4-6752 3681

Email: maurel@montp.inserm.fr

Inserm

Institut National de la Santé et de
la Recherche Médicale

Patrick Maurel, directeur

Montpellier, 14th October 2008

Prof. Dr. Juraj Sevcik, PhD
Dean of The Faculty of Science
Palacky University Olomouc
Tr. Svobody 26
771 46 Olomouc, Czech Republic

Re: Dr Zdenek Dvorak

Dear Professor Sevcik,

It is with great pleasure that I write to support Zdenek Dvorak's application for a full Professorship. I have known Zdenek for almost 10 years and have followed his research closely. In 1999 he started a series of scientific visits in my laboratory. During these visits, Zdenek succeeded in developing a research program on the effects of microtubule inhibitory agents like colchicine on the detoxication signaling pathways. Meanwhile, he learned about human hepatocyte cultures, nuclear receptor regulation and functional interactions between signaling pathways. My laboratory has thus been extremely fortunate to collaborate with Zdenek on this project and so, I can testify to Zdenek's excellence as a researcher, teacher and academic.

In terms of research, Zdenek has developed an international reputation from his work on the functional interactions between nuclear receptors involved in the control of detoxication (AhR, PXR, CAR) and other signaling pathways, notably those controlled by the glucocorticoid receptor. This is reflected by the large number of first and last author publications that Zdenek has published in International journals such as Mol Pharmacol, Biochem Pharmacol, Cell Signal, etc. More recently, Zdenek initiated a research program on the interferences between the detoxication signaling pathways and several important kinases including MAPKs. No doubt in my mind he will succeed in this new endeavour.

In addition to his research activities, it is clear that Zdenek is an excellent and successful mentor to his students. During the period 2006-2007, Radim Vrzal, a PhD student of Zdenek, accomplished part of his PhD thesis work in my laboratory (cotutelle thesis between Czech Republic and France) and my collaborators and I highly enjoyed Radim's work. It is important emphasizing that Zdenek's students (Vrzal and Henklova) produced top-quality papers in the last year.

In conclusion, I have enormous respect for Zdenek Dvorak's abilities. He has made, and continues to make, important contributions as a researcher, teacher and scholar. He possesses all the qualities expected of a full Professor and I highly recommend him for the position.

Yours sincerely,



Patrick Maurel, PhD

Directeur de Recherche Inserm

<http://www.hepatologyinvitro.org/>