



**CHARLES UNIVERSITY**  
**Faculty of Pharmacy**  
**in Hradec Králové**

**Supervisor's doctoral student assessment**

**Candidate:** Mgr. Yu Zhang

**Supervisor:** Assoc. Prof. Jakub Hofman, Ph.D.

Mgr. Yu Zhang has begun his PhD studies in academic year 2019/2020 and during them, he passed all four partial exams as well as the state doctoral exam. In the first year, he applied for a GAUK project (334120), which was accepted for funding and successfully solved within the term of 2020 – 2022. In the second year, Mgr. Zhang requested for another project, START/MED/070, which was also financially supported and realized in term of 2021 – 2023. He additionally participated in the solving of several other grants, namely, junior GAČR (20-20414Y), GAUK (102121), and Primus 20/MED/010.

During PhD studies, Mgr. Zhang has focused on the topic of anticancer drug resistance in non-small cell lung cancer and the possibility of its modulation. He was able to quickly learn several pharmacological and molecular-biological methods and use them for the solving of several subprojects. In addition, he introduced some valuable methods based on his previous research history. He showed huge enthusiasm and excellent working effort with emphasis on the finishing of given goals. By the time, I was glad to see his growth as a scientist, he became self-dependent to a substantial extent and proved great managing abilities. Besides, he also demonstrated educational qualities; he introduced several new PhD students and was a supervisor-consultant of 2 diploma students. He also participated in the lecturing of practical courses within the subject Pharmacokinetics. Therewithal, I appreciate knowing him as a reliable team player and kind person, which I was every time glad to communicate with. To the end of the studies, he visited the group of prof. Kaisa Lehti, Ph.D. at Karolinska Institutet, Sweden (for 3.5 months), where he learnt a series of tumor microenvironment research-related techniques. The methods were directly applied for the solving of his major project focusing on EGFR-TKi resistance.

The scientific qualities of Mgr. Zhang are reflected by his publication record. Until now, he is the first author or co-author of 7 publications with an impressive cumulative IF of 40.629. In addition, he is listed in another 2 manuscripts, which are either being finalized or are under review in impacted journals. Finally, he is first- or co-authored in another 4 papers from the era of his bachelor and master studies. Beside producing papers, he actively participated in the number of conferences in the form of posters or oral presentations (5 and 7 participations as first and co-author, respectively).

Taken together, I evaluate Mgr. Yu Zhang as an excellent PhD student, who definitely deserves obtaining PhD title. He participated in several scientific subprojects, introduced and applied several experimental techniques and became a key team member. Apart from his working qualities, I (and not only me) will remember him as a kind person with original sense for humor.

In Hradec Králové, 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2023

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Assoc. Prof. Jakub Hofman, Ph.D.