



CHARLES UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Pharmacy
in Hradec Králové

Supervisor's doctoral student assessment

Candidate: Mgr. Youssif Budagaga

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

Mgr. Youssif Budagaga 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 second year, he applied for a GAUK project (102121), which was accepted for funding and successfully solved within the term of 2021 – 2023. He additionally participated in the solving of several other grants, namely, junior GAČR (20-20414Y), START (START/MED/070), GAUK (334120, 1568218), and Primus 20/MED/010.

During PhD studies, Mgr. Budagaga 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 ddPCR as a novel technique in our team. He showed enthusiasm and substantial 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 helped to introduce a PhD student and was a supervisor-consultant of 4 diploma students. He also participated in the lecturing of practical courses within the subject Pharmacokinetics. Although as everybody of us, he had some weak points (such as limitations in scientific writing), the strong ones definitely outweighed. 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. Ming-Sound Tsao, Ph.D. at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Toronto, Canada (for 6 months), where he learnt how to work with *ex vivo* primary 3D-structured tumoroids and *in vivo* patient-derived xenograft mice models. The gained experimental knowledge was directly applied for the solving of his main project focusing on the modulation of anticancer drug resistance with tyrosine kinase inhibitors.

The scientific qualities of Mgr. Budagaga 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 38.71. In addition, he is listed in another 3 manuscripts, which are either being finalized or are under review in impacted journals. Beside producing papers, he actively participated in the number of conferences in the form of posters or oral presentations.

Taken together, I evaluate Mgr. Youssif Budagaga as an excellent PhD student, who definitely deserves obtaining PhD title. He participated in several scientific subprojects and introduced and applied several experimental techniques. Apart from his working qualities, I (and not only me) will remember him as a kind person with high level of social intelligence.

In Hradec Králové, 24th of May 2024

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Assoc. Prof. Jakub Hofman, Ph.D.