

## HABILITATION THESIS REVIEWER'S REPORT

### Masaryk University

**Applicant**

RNDr. Jan Škoda, Ph.D.

**Habilitation thesis**

Novel molecular approaches to overcome therapy resistance in pediatric solid tumors

**Reviewer**

Olga Piskareva, PhD MSc (Bio) MSc (Sci Com) PGDip Ed

**Reviewer's home unit, institution**

Department of Anatomy and Regenerative Medicine, RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences  
123 St Stephen's Green, Dublin, Ireland

Dr Jan Škoda has made significant contributions to our research endeavours in neuroblastoma, exhibiting outstanding capabilities in securing research grants and publishing impactful work. His perseverance and ability to successfully obtain funding for collaborative projects have been instrumental in advancing the understanding of neuroblastoma biology and developing innovative therapeutic strategies. Moreover, Dr Jan Škoda has co-authored several high-quality publications that have not only garnered recognition in the scientific community but also significantly influenced the field. He published 15 original research papers and three reviews as the first and/or corresponding author on 10 of these papers, with the majority published in Q1 journals and Open Access. Thus, it highlights their expertise and commitment to scholarly excellence. He supervises MSc and PhD students, which I encourage him to maintain.

### **Reviewer's questions for the habilitation thesis defence** (number of questions up to the reviewer)

1. Referring to Skoda J, et al Co- Expression of Cancer Stem Cell Markers Corresponds to a Pro-Tumorigenic Expression Profile in Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma. PLOS One. 2016.

While every publication is a hallmark of the researcher's career, the first one, as the first author, usually has the most memories. You claimed a contribution of 75% for the experimental work and 50% for supervision. Could you reflect on the team spirit and your expectations doing this project? How did this work shape your future?

2. Referring to all publications, please name the publication that significantly changed your research trajectory. What was most significant for you in that paper or during that period?
3. One of your research arms is finding targetable nodes in mitochondria to develop new treatments. Since any chemical drug is non-specific, bringing in off-target side effects, how could you prove/disprove the off-target effects of the selected drug?

4. What would your strategy and research inquiries be if you won 10M for research?
5. While we do research to improve the outcome of one of the most valuable patients, what do you think about Public and Patient Involvement in research? When would you incorporate it into your work?

### **Conclusion**

The habilitation thesis entitled "Novel molecular approaches to overcome therapy resistance in pediatric solid tumors" by Jan Škoda **fulfills** requirements expected of a habilitation thesis in the field of experimental cancer biology.

Date: 21 Oct. 24

Signature: