

Notes from Scientific Council meeting

Date: 29.4.2022, 1 PM

The meeting was partially on-line (Zoom) and on-site (Pau II)

Present on-line: Ivan Čepička, Vladimír Hampl, Astrid Holzer,

Present on-site: Martin Kolísko, Miroslav Oborník, Alena Zíková

Guests: Julius Lukeš, (director of IoP), Martin Palus (research scientist of the Laboratory of Arbovirology), Daniel Růžek (the head of the Laboratory of Arbovirology)

Excused: Petr Horák, Petr Kopáček, Martin Kváč

- The Scientific Council (SC) discussed a proposal by the Director of the Institute of Parasitology (IoP) to change the leadership of the Laboratory of Arbovirology.

- Prof. Julius Lukeš based his decision on the fact that Daniel Růžek, an outstanding scientist, is mainly based in Brno, and while he had the ability to manage the laboratory smoothly, his former PhD student Martin Palus has matured scientifically and as a manager in the meantime, so it might be advantageous to hand over the leadership to Martin Palus. Martin has already managed the day-to-day operations of the laboratory to the fullest extent. He seems to be an ideal leader at this point in time, as he has already gained brief experience abroad, is able to raise funds, and his unconventional character promises a smooth transition. He has also demonstrated a high level of critical thinking skills that will ensure the successful development of the laboratory. This proposal was discussed at length between the Director, Martin Palus and Daniel Ruzek. No obstacles have arisen and both participants fully support this decision. The director expressed his wish that the collaboration between the laboratory of Martin Palus in CB and the laboratory of Daniel Ruzel in Brno would work to the full extent.

- Prof. Daniel Růžek expressed his strong and enthusiastic support for this proposal. He stated that Martin Palus is fully prepared to take over as he is an excellent group leader who has already led the CB group. Daniel is completely open to any collaboration that might result from joint grant proposals. He will continue to mentor Martin and help him navigate the difficulties of being a young lab leader. He has no doubt that Martin will succeed and the lab will thrive under his leadership.

- Dr. Martin Palus gave an excellent presentation to the board, addressing the main research topics of the lab, current personnel, current funding, and grants submitted. He is well aware that the main topics are very competitive but still attract funding. On the other hand, he also wants to focus on topics that are less competitive as he is fully aware of the capacity of the lab. This shows

the leader's high level of competence and his ability to identify topics in which he can be successful. He is also aware of the difficulties in finding enough space at PaU I for his growing lab. This issue will arise again when the new director of the IoP is appointed, as he will be responsible for finding suitable solutions.

- The Scientific Council welcomes the smooth transition of the Laboratory's leadership. AZ expressed concern that Martin Palus may have difficulty being considered a fully independent scientist if he maintains strong ties to the Ruzek Laboratory. In contrast to the director, she advises that Martin Palus will slowly develop his own lines of research. On the other hand, Daniel Ruzek promised to assist Martin Palus in gaining recognition as an independent scientist, for example, by ensuring that Martin Palus serves as a corresponding author for papers that originate primarily in the CB lab. SC appreciates the open communication and has no doubt that both scientists will always find agreement on topics, funding, and people.

- AZ briefly presented the results of the selection committee for the position of IoP Director. The committee includes: Dr. Martin Kolísko, Prof. Martin Kváč, Dr. Alena Zíková, Dr. Vladimír Hampl and Prof. František Marec. One candidate, Prof. Miroslav Oborník, was recommended to the BC Board for this position.

- AZ briefly reminded SC that the position of Group Leader of the Laboratory of Fish Protistology has been advertised. The selection committee includes: Dr. Astrid Holzer, Dr. Martin Kolísko, Prof. Julius Lukeš, Prof. Miroslav Oborník, Prof. Tomáš Scholz, Prof. David Modrý, Dr. Alena Zíková. The SC will be informed about the progress of this call.

- AZ briefly informed the SC that if Miroslav Oborník is appointed Director of the IoP, he won't be able to serve as a member of the SC and therefore a new election will be held to find his successor.

Next meeting: Fall 2022.

The notes were read and approved by all members of SC.