

Doc. RNDr. Martin Kubala, Ph.D.
Dean of Faculty of Sciences,
UP Olomouc

22nd December 2020

Re: Petr Smykal.

Dear Dr Kubala,

I have known Petr since he visited my lab in, if I recall correctly, 2005 in association with his visit to Andy Flavell's lab at the University of Dundee. Andy's lab had a long-standing collaboration with my group in Norwich, focusing on the biology and technological uses of retrotransposons. This was the area in which Petr was working, and indeed has continued to have an interest, and on that occasion he visited Norwich for a few weeks as part of this three-way interaction.

Since that time Petr and I have frequently met and discussed our many areas of shared interest, as is reflected in our six joint publications. These areas include our common involvement in the study of the diversity and phylogenetic of the genus *Pisum* including inference about the domestication events in pea and the genetics of domestication traits. The subject of domestication is not purely biological, but also draws on areas such as eco-geography, linguistics and archaeology. From these simple observations I think it is clear that I am well acquainted with Petr and his scientific contributions.

Petr's publication record, his research awards, and fellowships attest to his positive standing in international research in his chosen specialism. Their author lists show Petr's standing internationally and his ability to form lasting research collaborations. Petr has also contributed to the legume research community through his interactions with scientific societies, contributing to the organisation of scientific conferences, some of these with little direct recognition. For example, I am confident that the success of the 2015 conference "*Research in Plant Genetics, from Mendel's peas to the present*" at the Mendel Museum in Brno was in no small part a consequence of Petr's efforts. Similarly in 2008 Petr undertook strenuous efforts for the maintenance of two platforms of importance for Grain Legume research in Europe; these were transformed into the International Legume Society which is currently an important forum in this research area.

I have no direct experience of Petr's teaching abilities or contribution, but from my interactions with him I know that he is highly energetic and enthusiastic; I can imagine how these qualities translate positively for the encouragement of his students. On the other hand, I have a detailed knowledge of Petr's intellectual activities and how he contributes to research programmes: I am very happy to have been a contributor to two of his first author publications.

In summary, Petr is an experienced and rounded researcher who makes a significant contribution, both academically and organisationally, to his field at an international level. This, I think, describes someone who would be expected to be of Professorial rank, and I recommend Petr to you in this regard.

T.H. Noel Ellis

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Noel_Ellis

John Innes Centre is a company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England No. 511709 Registered Charity No. 223852

John Innes Centre is grant aided by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

<https://www.jic.ac.uk/people/noel-ellis/>

Director, Professor Dale Sanders ScD FRS FRSB

Registered Office
Norwich Research Park, Norwich NR4 7UH
Tel: +44 (0)1603 450000 Fax: +44 (0)1603 450045