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**DEPARTMENT OF
CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY**

October 13, 2021

doc. RNDr. Martin Kubala, Ph.D.
Dean of the Faculty of Science, Palacky University
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Czech Republic

Dear Dean Kubala,

I am writing this letter in reference to Dr. Petr Bartak who is being considered for Professorship at Palacky University. Over the last few decades, I have evaluated numerous dossiers of individuals who were being considered for promotion to Professorship at universities in the U.S., Europe and Asia. I use the same criteria in all cases, although I recognize that criteria and standard may differ somewhat between universities and countries.

In my opinion, promotion to Professorship in the sciences means the individual is recognized nationally and internationally for their scholarship. Such an evaluation can be accomplished by examining an individual's peer reviewed publications (both the quality and number), presentations at national and international conferences, citations, collaborative research with other highly regarded scientists, has served as a reviewer for international journals and produced/mentored students who have received advance degrees under their tutelage. There are additional factors that I have no way to comment on, such as teaching quality, collegiality and university/department service. However, I note that he has taught a wide variety of courses in his department. As per the former criteria, I believe Dr. Bartak's record and accomplishments generally exceed my expectations. I provide more detail in the below paragraphs.

To begin with, Dr. Bartak has almost 90 peer reviewed publications and 135 presentations at national or international meetings. Importantly ~ 55 of his peer-reviewed publications have come since his previous promotion to Associate Professor (docent.) Clearly, he is not "resting on his laurels" or slowing down. If anything the number of graduate students mentored may be increasing. Broadly speaking, Dr. Bartak is a "separative scientist." The journals that he has published in are the best in the field. These include: *J. Chrom. A & B*, *Electrophoresis*, *J. Sep. Sci.* and the broader but very highly ranked *Anal. Chim. Acta* and *Talanta* journals. Some of Dr. Bartak's research has a somewhat different focus including food chemistry, environmental science, or some fundamental aspects of chemistry. Hence, he has published these findings in other journals in their respective fields, i.e., *J. Food Sci*, *J. Mass Spec.*, *Molecules*, etc. When one does highly relevant research, it can be applied in a variety of areas.

One of the things that surprised me was the extent of his collaboration and subsequent publications in the field of electroanalytical chemistry. A sampling of his interesting collaborative research in the area include publication numbers 72, 74, 75, 79 and 87 in his Curriculum Vitae. Such collaborations greatly benefit all professors and universities involved, as well as their



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graduate students. This is just one excellent example of Dr. Bartak's scientific collaborations. I noted several others as well, including with Professor Salvatore Fanali (Italian National Research Council and U. Verona), Professor Wolfgang Lindner (U. Verona), Professor Francesco de Angelis (U. L'Aquila, Italy), etc.

I would like to comment on a few specific aspects of Dr. Bartak's research. He is well known for his work on capillary electrophoresis-mass spectrometry. He developed these tools to evaluate environmental contaminants, food adulterants and even chemical warfare agents. One of the areas of Dr. Bartak's research that I found most intriguing was his analysis of historical art objects and other ancient objects (see references 70 and 82, in his C.V. for example). I expect to see more of such interesting work in the future.

To summarize, I fully support the promotion of Dr. Petr Bartak to Professorship at your fine University. Based on his record, he deserves such a promotion and I would fully expect him to continue such fine work in the future. If you have any questions or need any further information, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Daniel W. Armstrong
R. A. Welch Distinguished Professor