

Assoc. Prof. RNDr. Martin Kubala, Ph.D.
Dean of Faculty of Science
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Your ref:

Our ref:

Attended by:

Bratislava

prof. Ing. I. Špánik, D.Sc. October 20th, 2024

Dear Dean Kubala,

I am writing this letter in support of Assoc. Prof. Petr Bednar's promotion to the rank of Professor in the Field of "Analytical Chemistry". I would like to provide my evaluation and recommendation of his teaching, research, academic and scientific activities.

From my understanding, Associate Professor Petr Bednář, Ph.D. has worked in the Department of Chemistry from 2003, initially as an Assistant Professor through Associated Professor to his current position of head of the Department of Analytical Chemistry. During his carrier he had possibility to cooperate and do research in working groups of very well recognized and most influential analytical scientist like Salvatore Fanali, František Švec or Kevin Schug. In cooperation with them he performed highly innovative research in the emerging area of capillary electrophoresis and high performance liquid chromatography as well as studies by direct mass spectrometry. This work resulted in a large number of highly influential publications that have helped to shape the way in which the field has developed worldwide. Following on from this he has further developed his expertise in metabolomic studies and in application of analytical chemistry for archeological and heritage science research.

Whilst I have had relatively little exposure to what his duties for the University entail it is clear from his CV that Associate Professor Petr Bednář, Ph.D. is involved in teaching a significant number (4) of courses, mostly on analytical separations and applied analytical chemistry. In terms of administrative duties, he obviously participates in a range of Departmental and University committees, and also externally has been involved in committees for dissertation thesis. Associate Professor Petr Bednář, Ph.D. has been very active in obtaining and solving of national and international grants. All these grants have been focused on essential advances and developments of analytical methods for the determination of a wide range of analytes in (mostly) food and archeological samples. These grants clearly reflect his major research focus, which is the development of high performance separations and their application in evaluation of food, plant material and pharmaceuticals as well as in archeological objects. In his work he has shown considerable flexibility - his initial research was focused into the development of electromigration methods and during time expanded to include HPLC (including chiral) and MS methods, either used alone or in combination. As noted above, his work in this area resulted in some very influential publications which have helped to define the field. As a consequence, his subsequent research has aimed to further development and validation of analytical methods for sample preparation and hyphenation of separation methods with mass spectrometry for archaeometry and cultural heritage science.

His work in analytical chemistry has earned him and his research group international recognition and has opened up new avenues for the development of analytical chemistry. He has an excellent track record in publication, as shown in his CV, with 96 publications in peer reviewed journals and a further 1 professional book and 3 chapters in books. He is corresponding author in 29 publications. His papers were cited 1536 times (without self-citations) and his H index is 22 (Web of Science, Oct 19/2024).

In addition to his contributions to the research Associate Professor Petr Bednář, Ph.D. has been very active in training the next generation of analytical scientists. He has supervised six finalized PhD studies, while five more are ongoing. He has also supervised 31 MSc studies and 5 bachelor's theses.

As I hope I indicated Associate Professor Petr Bednář, Ph.D. has received both national and international recognition for his contributions to analytical chemistry and particularly to chiral separation, chemical analysis in archaeology and direct analysis of plant material. This recognition can be seen from fact that he contributed to many national and international conferences and in the awards received by him or his team members. The influence of his research is evident from the increasing number of citations to his research papers, which currently exceeds 1500. He is much in demand as an expert peer reviewer/referee and has provided opinions on papers for all major analytical chemistry journals. As a co-editor he has produced highly accessed special issue of the Journal of Separation Science and a book on the topic of History of Chromatography. Currently he is a co-editor of Special collections of Journal of Separation Science from the symposium Advances in Chromatography and Electrophoresis & Chiranal 2024.

In terms of the dissemination of his work, in addition to the highly influential publications that I have referred to already, I note that he and his colleagues are active in organization of well-established conferences Advances in Chromatography and Electrophoresis & Chiranal, which is very well recognised in Central European region. He also participated in organization committee of 2012 Informal Meeting on Mass Spectrometry and currently is a member of organizing committee of 35th International Symposium on Chromatography in Prague planned for 2026. All of this, and other initiatives, has enabled him to establish a strong network of collaborations with analytical chemist, chromatographers and other scientists performing interdisciplinary research.

From my personal experience of Associate Professor Petr Bednář, Ph.D. and his research group I have no doubt of his abilities and I have developed the greatest regard for his drive, initiative and research vision. His contributions to the field of analytical chemistry are of the highest quality and I have no hesitation in recommending him to you for promotion from Associate Professor to Full Professor of Analytical Chemistry.

Yours Sincerely

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Prof. Ivan Špánik, D.Sc.

Director of the Institute of Analytical Chemistry

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