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Assoc. Prof. Martin Kubala
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Vienna, 27th Aug. 2024

Concerning: Letter of recommendation for Associate Professor Dr. Radovan Herchel

Dear Dean Prof. Dr. Martin Kubala,

I am writing to offer my strongest recommendation for Assoc. Prof. Dr. Radovan Herchel for the position of a Full Professor of Inorganic Chemistry. Dr. Herchel currently holds the position of Head of the Department of Inorganic Chemistry at the Faculty of Science, Palacký University Olomouc, where he has demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovative research, and a deep commitment to education.

Dr. Herchel began his academic career at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, working under the mentorship of Prof. Roman Boča, a relationship that led to my introduction to him during their visit to Vienna Technical University. He completed his Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry in 2005, followed by his promotion to Associate Professor in 2014. Over the years, his research has expanded considerably, particularly in the areas of metal coordination chemistry, magnetic property measurements, and the theoretical interpretation of magnetic phenomena. His notable work on spin-crossover compounds and molecular nanomagnets has had a significant influence on the field. Our productive collaboration over the years has resulted in 11 joint publications (2000-2024) focused on the study of molecular magnetism.

Dr. Herchel's scholarly contributions are extensive and impactful. He has published 175 peer-reviewed articles, which have collectively garnered more than 3,500 citations, underscoring his prominent role in advancing the field of inorganic chemistry. His H-index of 34/35 (WoS/SCOPUS) is a further testament to the depth and influence of his scientific contributions. Dr. Herchel has also secured several major research grants, including those from GAČR, for groundbreaking work in molecular nanomagnets and multifunctional magnetic materials.

A particularly remarkable aspect of Dr. Herchel's career is his dedication to fostering international collaborations. He has established strong research partnerships with leading scholars and institutions worldwide, enhancing global scientific networks. His expertise has been recognized through invited lectures at prestigious international conferences, such as the 4th International Conference on Functional Molecular Materials in Krakow, Poland, and the Spin in Molecular Systems conference in Bangalore, India. These invitations are a testament to his standing as a leading expert in his field and his commitment to promoting global knowledge exchange.

In addition to his research excellence, Dr. Herchel is a passionate and committed educator. He has successfully supervised numerous B.Sc., M.Sc., and Ph.D. students, guiding them through their academic and research careers. His dedication to education is further demonstrated by his contributions to textbooks in Czech and Slovak, providing invaluable resources for future generations of chemists.

In conclusion, Dr. Radovan Herchel's distinguished research contributions, his dedication to education, and his strong leadership skills make him an outstanding candidate for the position of Full Professor. His work has had a profound impact on the field of inorganic chemistry, and his commitment to advancing scientific understanding and educating future scientists is exemplary. I am confident that he will continue to make significant contributions as a Full Professor and enhance the reputation of your institution. So I warmly support his promotion.

Sincerely yours,

Univ. Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Linert