



University of Stuttgart
Germany

Institute of Physical Chemistry

Prof. Dr. Joris van Slageren

Universität Stuttgart • Institut für Physikalische Chemie • Pfaffenwaldring 55 • 70569 • Stuttgart

Assoc. Prof. Martin Kubala
Dean of Faculty of Science
Palacký University Olomouc
17. listopadu 12
779 00 Olomouc
Czech Republic

Pfaffenwaldring 55
70569 Stuttgart • Germany

T +49 711 685-64380

E slageren@ipc.uni-stuttgart.de
www.ipc.uni-stuttgart.de

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Recommendation Letter for Assoc. Prof. Dr. Radovan Herchel

Dear Professor Kubala,

herewith I express my full support for the promotion of Assoc. Prof. Dr Radovan Herchel to Full Professor at the Palacký University Olomouc. Assoc Prof. Herchel is a high-ranking scientist that has amply demonstrated to possess all qualities and track record required to assume a full professor position at this renowned institution.

I have been Full Professor in Physical Chemistry at the University of Stuttgart since 2010. My area of specialization is advanced spectroscopic methods, in particular electron paramagnetic resonance. The materials that we study include molecular qubits and molecular nanomagnets in the areas of molecular quantum technologies and molecular spintronics.

I first met Radovan Herchel in 2006, when he approached me for measurements on a dimeric nickel complex that he was working on at the time. We carried out these measurements and in due course they were incorporated into a scientific publication in the prestigious Journal of the American Chemical Society (Herchel et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2007** 129, 10306 – 10307). This paper has already been cited 57 times. I invited him to an international workshop that I co-organized in Prachatice, Czech Republic in 2014. As a result of discussions at that workshop, we successfully applied for a DAAD bilateral project (2015 – 2016), which strengthened the connection and collaboration between our groups. Already three papers have resulted from this collaboration.

Scientific Quality and Productivity. Radovan Herchel has been extraordinarily productive during his scientific career with currently 175 peer-reviewed papers and an h-index of 34. His strong point has always been the combination of high-level inorganic chemistry with thorough magnetochemical investigations (also due to his training in the Boča group), and later high-level theoretical calculations. He was one of the first to realize that negative zero-field splitting is not required to observe slow magnetization dynamics in molecular compounds (*Inorganic Chemistry* **2014** 53, 5896 – 5898) and in fact cobalt-based single-ion magnets is the one field, where Radovan is well-recognized in the field and beyond. This is underlined by his winning of several Dean's Awards for prestigious peer-reviewed scientific publications.





Funding Acquisition. Beyond the mentioned joint DAAD project, Radovan has been successful in grant applications, above all at the national level, with continued success in GAČR grants already since 2009.

Supervision, Teaching and Management. A number of PhD students from Olomouc came to Stuttgart during the time of our joint DAAD project (Machata, Dvořák, Havlíček, and Kotrle). From their excellent preparation for their scientific short stays, it is clear that Radovan has excellent supervisory skills. In addition, Radovan is now Head of Department of Inorganic Chemistry at Palacký University Olomouc. This underlines that Radovan has the management skills required to assume the duties and responsibilities that are part of being full professor.

Final recommendation. In summary, I would like to stress that Radovan Herchel is an excellent scientist that has the supervisory, managerial and funding acquisition skills required to be a full professor. Therefore, I support and recommend his promotion to full professor wholeheartedly and without any reservation whatsoever.

Yours sincerely,

Joris van Slageren