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Assoc. Prof. Martin Kubala
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Letter in support of the application of Professor Dr. Tomáš Takáč for the post of Full Professor of Biochemistry at Palacký University Olomouc

Dear Dean Assoc. Prof. Dr. Martin Kubala,

I am pleased to provide a letter of recommendation in support of Associate Professor Dr. Tomáš Takáč for the position of Full Professor of Biochemistry. I do not know Professor Takáč personally, but I am conversant with his research and record of achievements. I consider that Professor Takáč is an outstanding research scientist, who is gaining a significant international reputation in the field of plant stress biology. His steadfast dedication to his research and his timely and innovative approaches have led to several important discoveries, particularly regarding the functions of antioxidant enzymes such as superoxide dismutases (SODs) in plant biology. With more than 52 research publications (16 within the last 5 years) and three book chapters, his publication record is excellent and bears testimony to his success. He has published extensively and consistently in the highest rated plant biology journals and his papers are well cited.

Dr. Takáč completed his PhD studies on antioxidants in 2005 and began his academic career at the Institute of Botany, Slovak Academy of Sciences. Following his postdoc studies in Jozef Šamaj's laboratory at the University of Bonn, where he became skilled in state-of-the-art proteomics and fluorescent microscopy techniques, he participated in the establishment of the Department of Cell Biology, which became the Department of Biotechnology in 2022.

I consider that Dr. Takáč has the talent and ability to become a true leader in the field of plant stress biology. He has always been at the forefront of the development of new methods and analytical tools to advance his research goals. This is particularly evident in his publication record, which illustrates not only the flow of original ideas but also the technologies that he has used to drive forward the frontiers of scientific endeavour. He has made an important contribution to the molecular and physiological characterization of the key factors regulating plant stress responses. The implications of this work are large not only for understanding how plant defences function, but

also in developing a better understanding of factors that control crop quality and yield. Dr. Takáč is the PI on a Czech Science Foundation (GAČR) Standard project that enabled him to establish a laboratory team composed of enthusiastic co-workers focussed on investigations into SOD functions.

Dr. Takáč has extensive teaching and research skills that have been gained in his work at the University. He is an excellent teacher with considerable experience in training and motivating your researchers.

In conclusion, I am certain that the extraordinary talent and efforts of Dr. Takáč have made and will make a key contribution to our understanding of plant biology. He has promoted, undertaken and co-ordinated high calibre research in basic and applied plant science. I therefore consider that he merits promotion to the post of Full Professor of Biochemistry.

Please do not hesitate to contact me again if you require more information.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Christine H. Foyer