



May 29, 2020

**Re: Outstanding personal reference for Doc. RNDr. Michal Masarik, Ph.D's application to the Faculty of Science at Palacky University Olomouc, Czech Republic.**

**Professor RNDr. Martin Kubala, Ph.D.  
Dean of the Faculty of Science  
Palacky University in Olomouc  
Olomouc, Czech Republic**

Dear Professor Kubala

As an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Wayne State University (WSU) School of Medicine during the last nine years I have had the opportunity to interact and collaborate with many dozens of academics at institutions throughout the U.S. and across the world. Dr. Masarik is remarkable even amongst a backdrop of an outstanding cadre of international colleagues. I am extremely happy to comment on his outstanding academic career as he applies to your faculty.

I have been acquainted with Dr. Masarik since approximately the winter of 2014 when I asked him to contribute a chapter to a Springer textbook I was editing entitled *Targeting Oral Cancer*. Based on his outstanding international reputation as a scholar in the area of biomarkers in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC) I enlisted Dr. Masarik as a corresponding senior author. The chapter he contributed "HNSCC biomarkers derived from key processes of cancerogenesis" has been one of the most popular chapters in the book with over 700 individual downloads. It was a very rewarding experience and we worked so well together on the early stages of the project and during the editing process that we ended up as co-authors on the chapter.

Shortly after our work together on the book and chapter, we collaborated on a project with an Otolaryngology Resident here at WSU examining the expression profiles of genes associated with the Unfolded Protein Response (UPR) between HNSCC and adjacent non-malignant tissue. Although the differences we observed were not sufficiently robust for publication, it was a wonderful and very rewarding endeavor that underscored what a terrific scientist and collaborator Dr. Masarik is. He quickly sent us dozens of high-quality very precious samples from the Czech Republic for us to perform RT-qPCR experiments. He and his expert team then analyzed hundreds of blinded samples and then returned the data to us within a week. The project was very well-received by the Department of Otolaryngology and at a national (U.S.) Otolaryngology meeting where it was peer-reviewed and accepted as a poster presentation.

Since working together a few years ago, I have followed Dr. Masarik's career very closely. I continue to be impressed with the large number of publications he has produced, and with the high quality of the work. It should also be noted that his work routinely appears in high impact peer-reviewed journals (often the top 5 – 10% of all peer reviewed scientific and medical literature). As a world leader in biochemistry and nucleic acid analysis he has positioned himself well to contribute thoughtful high-quality scientific observations to many different sub-specialties in the cancer field. Although my collaborations with him have always been focused toward head

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and neck cancers, Dr. Masarik continues to make important and voluminous contributions to the literature highlighting novel findings that push forward our understanding of invasion and metastasis in prostate and breast cancer.

Michal has been a tremendous asset to the Faculty of Medicine at Masaryk University, Brno. I'm certain he will continue his meteoric trajectory and contribute many many more seminal findings to the field of cancer. I can without hesitation, provide my highest recommendation for him in pursuit of a professorship in the field of Molecular and Cellular Biology within the Faculty of Science at Palacky University in Olomouc, Czech Republic. Your students and trainees will be competitive for graduate and medical schools and for residencies and fellowships all over the world.

I almost always end reference letters with the customary, "...if there is anything further you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me...". Please note: I would be very keen to discuss Dr. Michal Masarik with anyone at Palacky University that would like to take the time to do so, or provide any additional information you might need. Thank you for the opportunity to support such a wonderful colleague and collaborator.

Sincerely,



Andrew M. Fribley, Ph.D.  
Asst. Professor of Pediatrics  
Wayne State University School of Medicine  
Division of Hematology/Oncology  
421 E. Canfield  
Detroit, MI 48201  
313.577.8510

Fribley/Callaghan Collaboratory  
Carman and Ann Adams Department of Pediatrics