VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL

Prof. Doc. RNDr. Martin Kubala, Ph.D.
Dean of Faculty of Science
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Reference	**Contact person**	**Date**
LoR VUB_P Bednar	Prof. dr. Sebastiaan Eeltink Department of Chemical Engineering seeltink@vub.be +32 (0)2 629 3324	9 October, 2024

Dear Professor Kubala,

This letter is submitted in support of the application of Assoc. Prof. dr. Petr Bednář for the position of full professor at Palacky University Olomouc. I have known Dr. Bednář for many years and have closely followed his research and academic career, particularly through his presentations at international conferences. He has gained extensive international research experience and has established himself as an outstanding scientist with high impact in the field of LC-MS analysis of biologically active substances.

Dr. Bednář's scientific publication record is impressive with over 90 original research and review papers published in multidisciplinary chemistry-related research fields, reaching a *h*-index of 22. Dr. Bednář served as guest editor for the Journal of Separation Science and co-edited a book on "Origins and history of Czechoslovak liquid chromatography" in collaboration with the Czech Society for Mass Spectrometry. He presented his research at many international conferences and seminars by invited, keynote, or regular lectures. Dr. Bednář has also been actively involved in scientific outreach, serving as the chair of the international conference '*Advances in Chromatography and Electrophoresis & Chiranal*' since 1997. He is also a co-organizer of the 35th *International Symposium on Chromatography*, which will be held in Prague in 2026.

Dr. Bednář has undertaken research stays at prestigious institutions worldwide, including the Italian National Research Council in Rome, the University of California, Berkeley, and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (USA), the University of Vienna (Austria), and the University of Texas at Arlington (USA). Collaboration with several of these institutions remains ongoing, particularly with the Italian National

Research Council (C.N.R.). The partnership, primarily with Dr. Zeineb Aturki, Director of the Institute for Biological Systems, is strong and active, involving research stays for Ph.D. and master's students in Rome and joint projects on polyphenol characterization in various materials using nano-liquid chromatography. Currently, he has supervised six PhD dissertations to successful defense and is currently overseeing five more PhD students. Additionally, he has guided over 30 MSc and five BSc thesis research projects.

Dr. Bednář has been very active and successful in securing both national and international research funding, from the Czech Science Foundation and the European Union. He is currently involved in an 'Operational program Technology and applications for competitiveness grant application', co-financed by the EU. His future research will focus on the design and development of cutting-edge microanalysis technologies integrated with emerging (ambient) mass spectrometry instrumentation. The aim is to pioneer innovative methodologies in metabolomics profiling. Moreover, a key goal is establishing systematic, multimodal analytical approaches for the chemical characterization of archaeological artifacts and items of tangible cultural heritage. This research has the potential to make a significant impact on both scientific and cultural fields and I believe this forms the basis of future successful grant applications both on the national and international level

Dr. Bednář is a highly experienced university lecturer, delivering both lectures and practical courses to MSc and BSc students in the field of analytical chemistry, that are highly valued by students. Moreover, he contributes to the preparation of new master study program "Environmental and cultural heritage analytical chemistry" (prepared for accreditation in Czech form "Analytická chemie životního prostředí a kulturního dědictví"). This new program is prepared in cooperation with National Heritage Institute (NPÚ) of the Czech Republic. In the frame of the program several new subjects are prepared, including Advanced analytical methods for environmental control, Advanced analytical methods in cultural heritage and archaeology, Chemistry for sustainability, and Microscopy and micromanipulation in analytical chemistry.

I strongly support the promotion of Dr Bednář I to full professor as the next step in his career and I would be happy to answer any remaining questions

Sincerely,

Prof. dr. Sebastiaan Eeltink
Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Department of Chemical Engineering
Deputy Editor Journal of Separation Science (Wiley Publishers)
Editor-in-Chief of Analytical Science Advances (Wiley Publishers)