

Supervisor doctoral student assessment

Candidate: Maria Carmen Catapano, MSc.

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Přemysl Mladěnka, PharmDr., Ph.D.

I know Miss Catapano since 2015, when I met her in Bologna in the laboratory of my collaborator Assoc. Prof. Laura Mercolini, who has also participated as a co-supervisor to her doctoral study here. Due to problems with obtaining a PhD scholarship in Italy, we offered her a PhD study at our faculty. She accepted and started her PhD study under my supervision in 2016 in the studying program Pharmacy, studying field Pharmacology and Toxicology. I personally think that it was a very good decision for her since she has taken advantage of her experiences from her previous two years fellowship in the analytical laboratory of Assoc. Prof. Mercolini and worked really very intensively in our laboratories on her research topics which overlapped in some aspects between pharmacology and analytical chemistry.

The best proof of her very successful doctoral study is following issues:

- her current publication record: she is the main author of 4 publications and 6 as a co-author. 7 of these publications ensued from her research activities at our faculty during her doctoral study and have an average IF of 3.5.
- A short time needed for completing her Ph.D. study, from September 2016 to December 2019 (when she submitted her thesis)
- Moreover, during this time, she also spent 9 months fellowship at a very prestigious university King's college, where she worked on a different topic: interaction of metal ions with proteins (the research paper reporting her results from that fellowship has not yet been finished)

During her study, she passed all necessary exams including for her a complicated exam from the Czech language. She also presented her research at 5 conferences (twice as an oral presentation and

3 times as poster communications). She prepared and submitted as well three grants targeted to the development of a method for screening of novel zinc chelators and for the assessment of metal chelator selectivity to the Grant agency of Charles University, these grants were however not financially supported notwithstanding positive review reports.

She participated on the solution of the ongoing grant of the Czech Science Foundation (The role of optically pure flavonolignans in cardiovascular effects of silymarin, No. 18-00121S). In addition, she actively helped in organization of the Intense Learner Meeting of the TOX-OER project in May 2017. She also carried out mentorship for several foreign and Czech doctoral and Master students, and for preparation of one rigorous thesis. She also very significantly helped me in preparation of practical lessons for an intense learning program on metal chelation.

As a conclusion, I would like to emphasize my very positive evaluation of the candidate. From my point of view, obtaining of the Ph.D. title for her is highly deserved. Her work is not only above-average concerning the number of quality publications, but also encompasses two novel methodologies, which can be used by other researchers and hence the benefit for our research group and the faculty is undisputable.

V Hradci Králové, January 28, 2020

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Assoc. Prof. Přemysl Mladěnka, Ph.D.