

CANCER RESEARCH CENTER OF LYON (CRCL)

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Department: Immunity , Microenvironment and Virus

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Laboratory: Mechanisms of chronic hepatitis B and C pathogenesis and novel antiviral strategies

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Lyon, August 17, 2016

Prof. Jan Svoboda, DSc
Institute of Molecular Genetics
Academy of Sciences of Czech Republic

Dear Prof Svoboda,

Please find my report on Dr Ivan Hirsch's Habilitation Thesis.

Dr Ivan Hirsch is a senior scientist with a strong virology background and international curriculum. He graduated at the Faculty of Sciences of Prague and continued his training at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas before going back to Prague. Finally, he obtained a tenure position at INSERM in Marseille as a senior scientist for approximately 20 years. He also visited NIH in Bethesda in 2010 and went back to Prague a couple of years ago.

During his career, he studied : 1) the replication of Human herpes virus type 1 and its pathogenesis with a focus on its etiological role on cervical carcinoma, 2) the etiological role of Epstein-Barr virus in oropharyngeal carcinoma, 3) and then moved to very exciting topics at that time when he was in Marseille, i.e. HIV-1 latency and virus reservoirs, and HIV-1 pathogenesis and tropism. More recently, he became interested in virus restriction and in the interaction between viruses with the innate and adaptive immunity, with a specific focus on hepatitis C virus. In all these areas, he made a significant scientific contribution to the field at the international level.

His scientific production is really outstanding as he could publish the results of his group in the best specialty journals such as Virology, Journal of Virology, PLoSPathogen, Blood, and in general journals such as Nature and Cell Host & Microbes.

He was able to successfully establish a research group, obtain research grants and supervise PhD students and post-doctoral researchers. Noteworthy, he also established a fruitful network of national and international collaborations.

Ivan Hirsch was also promoted as a Director of Research at INSERM which is one of the highest distinction in France among senior scientists.

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For all these reasons, I believe that Ivan Hirsch has demonstrated his scientific capacity to very successfully manage a research group at the international level. Thus, I strongly recommend Ivan Hirsch's for his Habilitation thesis.

I remain at your disposal for any further information

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Fabien Zoulim

Lyon University,

Head of Viral Hepatitis Laboratory, CRCL-INSERM U1052

Head of Hepatology Department, Hospices Civils de Lyon

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