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In Prague,
02/03/2021

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To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to write this recommendation letter for Bara Cihlova who is applying for a fellowship with your foundation. Bara applied to join my group at Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry two years ago which we allow for highly motivated high school students. That was clearly Bara's case. She was deeply interested in natural sciences and medicine and her theoretical knowledge was far above average for her academic age.

Bara joined our ongoing efforts to deeply understand the Tick-borne encephalitis virus (TBEV) to develop enzyme inhibitors that could be used to as antivirals. Bara is now a competent scientist working independently, during the last two years she has learned and mastered several difficult methods of molecular biology such as polymerase chain reaction (PCR), DNA isolation from bacteria, preparation of expression plasmids, and expression and purification of recombinant proteins. She has already developed a high-throughput assay and her first-author paper is under review in Journal of Biological Chemistry (also available on the preprint server bioRxiv: <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.10.27.357418v1>). This is an amazing achievement as Bara is only a high school student. She succeeds because she is hard-working, learns from others, solves problems; and what's more, she radiates with enthusiasm for research and biochemistry.

In case it is not yet clear, Bara is a shining star with exceptional talent for natural sciences. For all the above reasons I fully endorse her fellowship application.

All the Best,

Evzen Boura

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