



## Habilitation Thesis Reviewer's Report

<b>Masaryk University</b>	Faculty of Informatics
<b>Faculty</b>	Informatics
<b>Procedure field</b>	Ing. Vlad Popovici, Ph.D.
<b>Applicant</b>	Faculty of Science, Masaryk University
<b>Applicant's home unit, institution</b>	Computational biomarker discovery: methods and practice
<b>Habilitation thesis</b>	Prof. Manuel Salto-Tellez
<b>Reviewer</b>	Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology, Queen's University Belfast, UK
<b>Reviewer's home unit, institution</b>	

Belfast, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Prof. Jiří Sochor ([sochor@fi.muni.cz](mailto:sochor@fi.muni.cz))

Habilitation Committee Chairperson

Masaryk University

Faculty of Informatics

Brno, Czech Republic

Dear Prof Sochor,

Habilitation Thesis

Collection of articles

Ing. Vlad Popovici, M.Sc., Ph.D.

You have asked me to provide you with a review of the habilitation thesis, authored by Ing. Vlad Popovici, M.Sc., Ph.D., which I shall do with great pleasure.

I have known the candidate over a few years now, as we are part of a prestigious European FP7 grant in the context of an important pan-European clinical trial, the MeRCuRIC phase 1 trial. In the process I learnt to discuss science with Dr Popovici, and have been familiarized with his published work, which I have been able to review as part of the habilitation information you kindly sent me.

Dr Popovici is what I would describe as a true modern scientist of clear talent and great success. His work cuts across excellent technical publications in the field of bioinformatics, and very important published contributions to the understanding of the biology of cancer (primary colorectal cancer) and, most importantly, also the clinical relevance of such biology. The quality of the journals where Dr Popovici has published on a regular basis is fantastic, and I know (having worked with him closely) that even in those papers in which he is a middle author, his contribution has been essential for the absolute success of the science written. The breadth and depth of his contribution to science is very unique, as it is his capacity to engage with international teams and make the most of them. The fact that his work is highly respected and broadly cited is a testament of the quality of his science.

I have no doubts that, in my university and in many other universities in the United Kingdom, Dr. Popovici would be a full Professor, and he knows that our door will be open to him for any future scientific endeavour he may wish to engage with us.

Therefore, hereby I would like to declare that having assessed the scholarly merits of the habilitation thesis, I have no doubts that it comfortably and successfully meets the quality criteria.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you require further analysis for this extraordinary candidate and his work.

Sincerely yours,

Manuel

**Reviewer's questions for the habilitation thesis defence** (number of questions up to the reviewer)

None

### **Conclusion**

The habilitation thesis entitled "*Computational biomarker discovery: methods and practice*" by Vlad Popovici fulfils ~~does not fulfil~~ requirements expected of a habilitation thesis in the field of Informatics.

In Belfast on 9/4/2018

signature