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March 17th, 2018

RE: Recommendation Letter for Veronika Zizkova

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my great privilege to write a letter of recommendation for Veronika Zizkova. By way of introduction, I am a tenure-track Assistant Professor at Johns Hopkins University in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, Head and Neck Cancer Research Division. In that capacity, I have had the opportunity of directly training Veronika as a research student for four months (January 12th to May 12th, 2014). During this time Veronika has demonstrated extraordinary productivity and talent, contributing to three second and middle author publications. Her (1) aptitude for translational research, (2) scientific acuity and enthusiasm for pre-clinical studies, and (3) self-motivation and collegiality make Veronika a model student and colleague.

Ms. Zizkova aided my team in defining the functional roles of NF- κ B, STAT1, STAT3 and DTX1 proteins in head and neck carcinogenesis. For this reason, she determined their expressional level in primary tumor and normal samples, and their promoter methylation status. She had also identified the degree of their dysregulation in tumor samples and the ways to biochemically and therapeutically control their normal expression. Moreover, she described DTX1 as a novel tumor suppressor in head and neck cancer along with other key tumor suppressors regulated by differential methylation of their promoters. She worked with the variety of cell lines and clinical samples, utilizing the diversity of biomedical technics and therapeutic agents.

Veronika had a very high scientific ethical standards and was exceptionally thorough about the data she produced. Veronika had consistently met the research goals that we have outlined each week. I am confident that she will continue to apply her dedication to biomedical research in medicine and science.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daria".

Daria A Gaykalova, PhD

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