

Masaryk University	
Faculty	Faculty of Medicine
Procedure field	Medical Immunology
Applicant	MUDr. Zita Chovancová, Ph.D.
Applicant's home unit, institution	Faculty of Medicine, Masaryk University
Habilitation thesis	Selected clinical and laboratory aspects of non-malignant antibody production disorders in adulthood
Board members	
Chair	prof. MVDr. Miroslav Toman, CSc. <i>Veterinární univerzita Brno a VÚVeL Brno</i>
Members	doc. MUDr. Ondřej Rybniček, Ph.D. <i>Faculty of Medicine, Masaryk University</i> prof. MUDr. Filip Růžička, Ph.D. <i>Faculty of Medicine, Masaryk University</i> prof. MUDr. Mgr. Milan Raška, Ph.D. <i>Ústav imunologie, UP Olomouc</i> Prof. em. Dr. med. Hans-Hartmut Peter <i>University of Freiburg</i>

Evaluation of the applicant's scholarly/artistic qualifications

MUDr. Zita Chovancová, Ph.D., (born Trávníčková) graduated from the Faculty of Medicine of Masaryk University in 2006. Since completing her studies, she has been working as a physician at the Department of Clinical Immunology and Allergology of the Faculty of Medicine, Masaryk University and St. Anne's University Hospital, Brno. In 2011, she defended her dissertation at the Faculty of Medicine MU on the topic "Functional analysis of the antibody response in patients with common variable immunodeficiency (CVID)" (Funkční analýza protilátkové odpovědi u pacientů s běžnou variabilní imunodeficiencí, CVID) and received the Ph.D. in the field Medical Microbiology and Immunology. In 2012, she completed the basic internal training and in 2013 she obtained a specialized qualification in the field of Allergology and Clinical Immunology. From 2012 until now, she has been working as an assistant professor and now the vice-head of the department.

During her medical career, she completed a 2-month internship abroad at D'Immunologie Clinique de l'Hospital Saint-Louis in Paris (2006) and a one-week internship at Clinical Immunology, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in Great Britain (2014).

Zita Chovancová has long been engaged in research on the issue of non-malignant abnormalities of antibody formation, and bronchial asthma. She is a co-investigator of an ongoing AZV ČR project and a member of the author's collective of one project of the same grant agency.

She is the author of 32 peer-reviewed publications, of which she is the first or corresponding author 12 times. Of these publications, 11 are in journals with IF, and the applicant is the first or corresponding author 3 times. All of these three first-author publications are above the median of the field according to WOS. At the time of submitting the application for the habilitation procedure, the applicant listed 180 citations according to WOS (without self-citations) and H-index 6 (currently 204 citations, H-index 7). The most cited first author publication has 34 citations.

She has repeatedly received awards for her poster presentations at Czech and international scientific conferences in the field of allergology and clinical immunology, e.g. 2010 in London or 2013 in Milan. In 2005, she won the Prix de Medicine awarded by the French Embassy in the Czech Republic for the best works of young scientists. She also received the highest publication award of Czech Society of Allergology and Clinical Immunology (ČSAKI) – the Dr. Liška Award in 2012. She is a member of several national and international professional societies: ČSAKI, Czech Immunology Society (ČIS), Czech Society for Analytical Cytometry (ČSAC), European Society for Primary Immunodeficiency (ESID) and the European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology (EAACI). She is one of the founding members of the "Group of Young Allergists and Immunologists" of ČSAKI. Since 2022, she has been a member of the EAACI Working group committee "Immunodeficiency". She is a member of the Ethics Commission of the St. Anne's University Hospital, Brno.

Conclusion: The applicant's scholarly/artistic capabilities **meet** the requirements expected of applicants participating in a habilitation appointment procedure in the field of Medical Immunology.

Evaluation of the applicant's pedagogical experience

MUDr. Zita Chovancová, Ph.D., has been engaged in teaching activities continuously since 2009, i.e. 14 years. He conducts practicals in Czech and English in the subjects of Immunology in the programs of General Medicine and Dentistry. She also lectures in the course Theoretical foundations of clinical medicine (Czech and English). She was the supervisor of one bachelor's thesis, she is the supervisor of one student in the ongoing study of the doctoral study program. She also participates in teaching immunology for biochemical and immunological laboratory technicians at the National Center for Nursing and Non-Medical Health Sciences, where she is a member of the attestation committee for medical laboratory technicians for the field of "Medical Immunology". She is the co-author of 2 chapters in peer-reviewed pedagogical textbooks (2015, 2019).

Conclusion: The applicant's pedagogical capabilities **meet** the requirements expected of applicants participating in a habilitation appointment procedure in the field of Medical Immunology.

Habilitation thesis evaluation

Applicant MUDr. Zita Chovancová, Ph.D., submitted her habilitation thesis "Selected clinical and laboratory aspects of non-malignant disorders of antibody production in adulthood" (Vybrané klinické a laboratorní aspekty nemaligních poruch tvorby protilátek v dospělém věku). The thesis contains standard scientific work and 9 publications presented in full text as annexes. The actual text is written on 88 pages. The author set four goals in her work, which she gradually meets in the text. In the first part she characterizes B lymphocytes and analyses the basic mechanisms of antibody formation, in the next part she describes individual isotypes of antibodies with a focus on pathological conditions associated with dysregulation of their formation. This section is linked to 5 publications by the author, listed as attachments to the habilitation file. In the last part, she focuses on common variable immunodeficiency (CVID) as the most clinically significant disorder of antibody production in adulthood, to which other 4 publications are linked. These chapters are followed by a discussion and a conclusion. The own habilitation thesis contains a total of 238 citations. This part is followed by the above-mentioned 9 scientific papers. Eight of them were published in prestigious journals with IF, one was published in a Czech professional per-reviewed journal. In four of them she is the first author with a significant authorship contribution, in the other 5 she is a member of a wider author collective with a 10-20% share. The habilitation thesis in its complex meets the standard of a scientific thesis, but the habilitation committee leaves its qualitative assessment to the reviewers.

Conclusion: The applicant's habilitation thesis **meets** the requirements expected of habilitation theses in the field of Medical Immunology.

Secret vote results

Voting took place: electronically

Number of board members		5
Number of votes cast		5
of which	in favour	5
	against	0

Board decision

Based on the outcome of the secret vote and following an evaluation of the applicant's scholarly or artistic qualifications, pedagogical experience and habilitation thesis, the board hereby submits a proposal to the Scientific Board of the Faculty of Medicine of Masaryk University to **appoint the applicant associate professor** of Medical Immunology.

In Brno on 10.11.2023

prof. MVDr. Miroslav Toman, CSc.

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