

Masaryk University	
Faculty	Faculty of Medicine
Procedure field	Oncology
Applicant	MUDr. Radka Obermannová, Ph.D.
Applicant's home unit, institution	Faculty of Medicine, Masaryk University
Habilitation thesis	Individualized Approach in Clinical Research of Gastrointestinal Tumours as a Surrogate for Quality of Cancer Treatment
<u>Board members</u>	
Chair	prof. MUDr. Jaroslav Štěrba, Ph.D. <i>Faculty of Medicine, Masaryk University</i>
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Evaluation of the applicant's scholarly/artistic qualifications

MUDr. Radka Obermannová, Ph.D. started her professional career after graduation from the Faculty of Medicine of Masaryk University in 1995 as a physician at the Oncology Department of Masaryk Cancer Institute. 1998 she successfully passed the first level attestation exam in Internal Medicine and in 2003 in Clinical Oncology. Since 2001, she has worked at the Department of Comprehensive Cancer Care as the head physician of the inpatient unit, and since 2005 as the head physician of the inpatient unit and outpatient specialist/consultant for treating gastrointestinal tumours. She has been involved in clinical research since the beginning of her career and her role as principal investigator in a number of clinical trials has led her to her own academic research. In 2012, she was instrumental in the establishment of the Phase I Trials Unit, where she still serves as Chief Medical Officer.

The focus of her more than 15 years of professional interest has been on gastrointestinal tumours, in recent years, especially on individualization of treatment of oesophageal and gastric tumours. In her postgraduate studies, she focused on circulating vitamin D levels in metastatic colorectal cancer.

Her interest in the issue of personalization of cancer treatment and precision medicine has led to publications with an international scope. According to the WoS database, she has published 28 peer-reviewed publications in impacted journals in the last five years. She is the editor and lead author of the professional book *Multidisciplinary approach to oesophageal and gastric cancer*, on which she collaborated with an interdisciplinary author team, and has authored chapters in professional books and textbooks. Her h-index is 17.

Her intense interest in the study of molecular predictors and individualization of treatment algorithms led her to the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC), of which she has been a member since 2013. In 2019, she became the leader of the Task Force on Individualized Therapy of GI Cancers. Her closest international collaborators include Dr Maria Alsina Maqueda from Vall de Hebron University, now Hospital Universitario de Navarra (HUN), and Prof. Dr. med. Florian Lordick of the Universitätsklinikum Leipzig, Prof. Dr Hanneke W.M. van Laarhoven, MD, PhD of the Amsterdam University Medical Centers and Prof. Irit Ben-Aharon of the Rambam Health Care Campus, Haifa, Israel.

Radka Obermannová is a co-author of the national guidelines for the treatment of oesophageal and gastric cancer and the first author of the European ESMO guidelines for oesophageal cancer. She is a member of the ESMO 2023 and 2024 Programme Committee and, since 2021 of the Programme Committee of the World Conference on GI Cancers (WCGIC). She is the author of numerous scientific and educational lectures. This year she gave a lecture on Targeted Therapy (Targeting Claudin 18.2) at the World Congress for Gastrointestinal Cancers, moderated 1 session of the scientific programme and presented a poster with the results of the Czech academic multicentre Covigi study.

At the national level, she is a successful co-investigator of the AZV grant dedicated to the academic clinical trial GastroPET and the main coordinator/investigator of the V4 grant for increasing educational capacity in oncology. Internationally, she is a co-investigator of the HORIZON grant PRESSURE (MARIE Skłodowska-CURIE ACTIONS(Call: H2020-MSCA-ITN-2020). In 2021 she initiated the creation of the academic clinical group CZECRINonco and is currently its main coordinator. Recent achievements include the creation of the National Genomic alterations platform for Next Clinical Studies (GENESIS), which aims to harmonize the outputs of the different molecular tumour boards, to facilitate patient treatment with precision medicines according to the specific targetable alteration and initiate the design of new academic clinical trials with innovative treatments.

Radka Obermannová is a member of ESMO, EORTC, SGO and IGCA and a member of the COS.

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

Evaluation of the applicant's pedagogical experience

MUDr. Radka Obermannová, Ph.D. has been involved as an assistant professor at the Faculty of Medicine of Masaryk University since 2010 in the undergraduate teaching of Czech and foreign students of Clinical Oncology.

She is also involved in postgraduate teaching and supervises a PhD student in Oncology at the Faculty of Medicine of Masaryk University.

She is the author of a professional book and co-author of 4 peer-reviewed textbooks or chapters. She is also actively involved in the education of physicians in the field of oncology at the international level. Among international educational events, she is an active lecturer at ESMO Academy Prague 2022, lecturer at ESMO Preceptorship in Upper GI tumours (Valencia 2022, Singapore 2022, Valencia 2023), lecturer at the European School of Oncology (ESO), where she lectures in the educational preparation for the European attestation (2021 online, 2023 Varese). She is a co-presenter and panel discussion participant in ESMO (Oncology Pro) educational webinars. She is a co-investigator of the Educational V4 platform for capacity building in oncology grant 2021-2023 and co-authored an online course for training study coordinators in oncology. Her activity within the Czech academic group CZECRINonco and her position as the lead physician of Unit f. I led an invited lecture on the practical implications of new legislative changes on the conduct of clinical trials - as part of the SPARK Europe Webinar Series 2023.

She also demonstrated her ability to educate the audience in an erudite manner in her habilitation lecture for the professional community entitled "Update of treatment standards for oesophageal and gastric cancer", which was very positively evaluated by the evaluators themselves, as well as by experts in the field and other audience members.

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

Habilitation thesis evaluation

The candidate's habilitation thesis is compiled as an annotated collection of publications on clinical research in the field of gastrointestinal tumours, especially oesophageal and gastric cancer. Of the 14 annotated publications that form the basis of this thesis, 13 are published in prestigious foreign journals with very high impact (total IF 265.3), one original paper is printed in a Czech peer-reviewed journal. Moreover, for half of these papers, MUDr. Obermannová, Ph.D. is the first or corresponding author, which shows that she is actively involved in the design of the studies, hypotheses and methodology of scientific work, evaluation of the obtained results and their presentation. The applicant's habilitation thesis shows a focused thematic consistency. The entire habilitation thesis is 224 pages long.

This is a very comprehensive and coherent monograph on clinical research issues in the field of gastrointestinal cancer. However, the basis of the thesis is the author's own research results focused on the study of innovative predictive biomarkers of targeted therapy or predictive markers enabling individualized adaptation of complex treatment, and the current possibilities of using these outcomes in routine oncological practice. The author addresses the issue of gastrointestinal malignancies in a broad methodological and thematic scope: from genetic risk factors, predictive and prognostic biomarkers, and laboratory analyses of basic research, through diagnostic and imaging methods and their potential predictive significance, to international randomized clinical trials and detailed evaluation of their results.

The main original works among the publications are focused on the research of predictive and prognostic markers. The GastroPET study uses the potential of PET to assess tumour chemosensitivity and identify non-responders, and subsequently select an individualized treatment approach by intensifying treatment in a prognostically less favourable subgroup. Similarly, the search for new predictive markers in the field of mi-RNA markers, as well as the study of the benefit of antiangiogenic targeted therapy, has yielded interesting results regarding the efficacy of these agents in both first and second-line systemic palliative therapy, is valuable.

As a recognized expert, MUDr. Obermannová, Ph.D. is a co-author of national and international recommendations in the treatment of oesophageal and gastric cancer. As a member of the EORTC group, she is also involved in the initiation and implementation of new non-commercial and academic studies.

The layout and selection of publications, which reflects the progressive development and implementation of new findings in the treatment of gastrointestinal cancers, were highly appreciated by all reviewers. The choice of the commentaries, which include references to contract (commercial) studies, is also appropriate, but again with important implications for clinical practice. The candidate has been systematically, and long-term involved in the subject. The development of international procedures for the treatment of oesophageal and gastric tumours is considered by opponents to be a significant result of MUDr. Obermann's work.

The applicant's activities related to the topic of her habilitation thesis are summarized in the last chapter, which also shows her great interest in the subject and her constant efforts to improve the care of patients with oesophageal and gastric tumours not only in the Czech Republic.

The habilitation thesis itself received an unequivocally positive evaluation from all three referees, highlighting both the deep knowledge of the subject, the high scientific level and excellent prerequisites for further systematic scientific and research work, but also the appreciation of the ability to perfectly link the achieved results and own knowledge with patient care in real clinical practice. The convincing and unquestionable scientific erudition documented by this habilitation thesis was highlighted by all the opponents.

All the opponents also unanimously agreed that the formal and substantive level of the habilitation thesis clearly meets the standard requirements for habilitation theses in the field of Oncology.

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

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 Oncology.

In Brno on 24.08.2023

prof. MUDr. Jaroslav Štěrba, Ph.D.