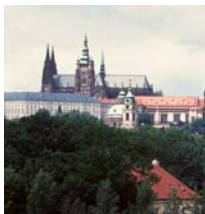




# Letter of Motivation



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## Letter of Motivation to Organize the 2016 ICCB in Prague

The Czech Society for Cell Biology was established in 1984, having grown out of the Czechoslovak Biological Society established in 1922. The Society has been involved in research progress in all disciplines of cell biology and has provided extensive teaching activities for both undergraduate and postgraduate students. In addition, the Society has also helped to promote the careers of early career researchers, and been involved in the organization of various lectures and practical courses.

At the present time, cell biology enjoys a robust position with Czech Universities, the Life Science Institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences, as well as the Ministerial Life Science Research Institutes. Interestingly, in this context, the number of foreign PhD students and researchers in cell biology, either studying or working in the Czech Republic, has been increasing. The regular collaboration between Czech cell biology groups has already become the norm and numerous Czech cell biology laboratories have participated in various international, and particularly European, joint bilateral or multilateral projects. The performance of the Czech cell biology in terms of the number and quality of publications and the number of respective citations has been gradually increasing in the last fifteen years.

The Czech Society for Cell Biology stood behind the organization of the 4<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Cell Biology in Prague in 1994, and its members have been involved in the organization of several other international congresses, such as the 2009 FEBS Congress in Prague. Apart from that, members of the Society have organized a number of international symposia and workshops, as well as international practical courses. For instance, four EMBO Workshops in Cell Biology were organized in Prague in the last fifteen years.

This being said, a possibility to organize the 2016 ICCB in Prague represents for the Czech cell biologists and the Society of Cell Biology not only a great honor, but also a great responsibility. We are confident that the local PhD students, postdoctoral fellows and established researchers would be enthusiastic and highly motivated, and would, along with the proposed local organizing committee, do their best so that the Congress is an outstanding scientific event. The achievement of this goal would be substantially facilitated by the fact that tens of top scientists from all over the world have confirmed their willingness to attend the Congress, as well as a number of European scientific societies and associations and both local and international institutions and organizations that have provided us with their support.

Prague is a wonderful city and a favorite congress destination. Founded more than thousand years ago, the City has a rich history, magnificent architecture and offers diverse cultural experiences, such as exhibitions and concerts taking place every day. Prague is a safe and tourist-friendly city with various restaurants and hotels. Many cheap, but convenient student dormitories are also available during summer holidays. Václav Havel International Airport is accessible daily from all major European cities and elsewhere, and the cheap Prague Integrated Public Transportation is one of the best in Europe.

The Congress would be coordinated by the professional congress organization company C-IN, based in Prague. This company has already organized numerous meetings, including the 2009 FEBS Congress. Several cultural and social events would take place during the Congress, as well as before and after it, too.

The Congress would be held in the Prague Congress Center, which can accommodate up to 10,000 participants. The 2009 FEBS Meeting, for instance, took place in the Center. Importantly, the facility is situated next to several major hotels and an underground transport station enabling the Congress participants to reach the Prague City Center in five minutes.

On behalf of the Czech Society for Cell Biology, we would like to profess our firm intention to organize the 2016 ICCB in Prague, as well as the conviction that Prague is ready to host the Congress.

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