

**Statement from the director of the institute on the final report of the
Commission No. 4: Chemical sciences**

The Final Report on Evaluation of the Institute reflects both oral presentations during the on site evaluation at the Institute of Analytical Chemistry on 3rd December, 2015, and materials for the Phase I available to the commission as well.

As far as the institute concerns, the commission recognized that the research at the institute is oriented to fundamental research in the field of analytical chemistry, development of cutting-edge analytical instrumentation, methodologies and conceptual important applications in key areas of science and technology. The commission noticed that the institute represents a wide range of activities in analytical chemistry and its extensive collaborations with other institutions including good international universities are notable. The research directions of the institute correspond in general to the distribution of the worldwide activities in the field of analytical chemistry. The commission found out that a significant progress has been achieved since the last evaluation and this, in my opinion, is true not only for the department BAI and FPS mentioned in the Final Report. The commission found the reorganization performed by the director in 2013 to be a successful step forward and considered the institution to be a valuable asset to CAS. In this context, I cannot agree with the statement of the commission that the level of publications and number of patents are low, which is in contradiction not only to the results of the Phase I but also to effectivity expressed as the number of publications and impact factor contribution per full time equivalent of researchers, and doubled number of patents compared to the previous evaluated period. As shown during director's oral presentation, improvement in all followed parameters since last evaluation in 2010 could be seen; the institute as a whole produced constantly papers of increasing scientific level (average impact contribution per researcher increased by 17%), patents doubled, topics of research followed cutting-edge directions of analytical chemistry, ratio of senior and young researchers improved, financial support from grants and projects was good and stable (average grant financial support increased by 22% compared with the previous evaluated period), and international cooperation increased. Of course, due to small individual teams this does not hold for each team at each year of the evaluated period as any personal change or difficulties with brand new research program can easily reflect on the current productivity.

Department of Bioanalytical Instrumentation (BAI) has been rated by the commission very positively. In fact, this department maintained its leadership position, fusion with former department of proteomics and glycomics opened further directions of cancer-related research in addition to running progressive research programs.

Department of Electromigration Methods (EMM) was led by a recognized scientist, prof. Boček, founder of so called "Brno electrophoretic school". The team has been oriented to fundamental research and sufficiently financially supported by grant projects. Production of a high level contributions to well impacted journals was constantly the highest at the institute, however, there was a great part of review articles published on request of editors, which follows also from the renown of the team leader.

I agree with the commission that new topics should be opened, which should change the ratio of reviews to original papers. No visible change of age distribution occurred during evaluated period and as this has already been recognized, some action was taken in 2015 to prevent further maturation.

Department of Trace Element Analysis (TEA) shows in all followed parameters permanently a high performance (publications, projects, international cooperation, involvement of students in research activities, education, public activities, high school activity etc.). Due to involvement of gifted young scientists in the team there are conditions for continuation of all aspects of quality research work also in the future. In my opinion, activities of TEA team were undervalued.

Department of Fluid Phase Separation (FPS) was created in 2013 from former Department of Separation in Liquid Phase and Separation with Compressed Phase not successfully evaluated in previous evaluation process. Evidently, the fusion was quoted positively by the commission, though the quantitative results from Phase I have not yet reflected improvement. The commission considers the results of FPS department to be comparable with achievements of established laboratories. I fully agree with the commission that there is a need to bring more junior enthusiastic co-workers, to improve publication record as well as international collaboration and to define clearly long-time objectives to avoid vitality reduction.

Department of Environmental Analytical Chemistry (ENV) improved its performance compared with results presented five years ago and worked on a number of important grant projects well financially supported. I agree with the commission that the number and quality of publications of ENV department should improve. The department was strengthened by a promising young scientist and there is chance that research level will improve in following years.

Although there are some items where my point of view is different from conclusions made by the commission, which perhaps could be eliminated at a meeting with the director where mutual discussion should occur before concluding the on-site visit, I am accepting conclusions of the evaluation. Recommendations of the commission are in every way valuable for improvement of management and output of individual departments.

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