



CANCER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

RNDr. Ľuba Hunáková, CSc.

Candidate Statement

Luba Hunakova, born in 1967 in Nitra, Slovakia, graduated from Biophysics, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Comenius University, Bratislava in 1990. She received the Ph.D. degree from the Cancer Research Institute, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, in Oncology, Biological Sciences, 1996. Since 1990, L. Hunakova is working in the Tumor Immunology Laboratory, Cancer Research Institute, Slovak Academy of Sciences, from 1999 as a senior scientist. She helped to initiate and develop the application of flow cytometry and participated in characterisation of monoclonal antibodies recognizing human differentiation antigens (Leukocyte Typing V). In 1997, she was a Research Fellow in CRC Center for Cancer Therapeutics at the Institute of Cancer Research, Belmont, Sutton, UK (ICRETT), where she studied apoptosis induced by /cis/ and /trans/ pairs of platinum complexes in cisplatin – sensitive and -resistant human ovarian carcinoma cells. From 2000-2002 she worked in National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, RTP, NC, USA under the supervision of Prof. Van Houten (Postdoctoral fellowship in NIEHS/NIH). Her studies on protein-DNA interactions consisted of spectroscopic studies on UvrABC-DNA interactions, thermodynamics and kinetics.

Current research interests:

- drug- induced apoptosis, resistance and their modulation
- cell cycle and cell surface antigen alterations in human cancer cells
- relationships between apoptosis, cell cycle and DNA repair
- epithelial-mesenchymal transition, stem cells
- effect of natural compounds isothiocyanates (ITCs) on cellular mechanisms and markers associated with aggressive phenotype and treatment responsiveness in breast and ovarian cancer.

L. Hunakova has been EACR member since 1992 and was the national treasurer till 2000. She is active in organizing international conferences (Natural Compounds in Cancer Prevention and Treatment, Drug Resistance in Cancer) and desiring the progress in cancer research; effectively contributing to prevention, treatment and care improvement. She is interested in developing the national network of cancer research.

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