



European Centre for Environment & Human Health

May 4, 2021

Re: Letter of Recommendation for promotion of Dr Iana Markevych

To the Discipline Council of Biological Sciences of Jagiellonian University

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for promotion for Dr Iana Markevych. I am an occupational and environmental health physician and epidemiologist, Professor and Chair of Oceans, Epidemiology and Human Health at the University of Exeter, and the Director of the European Centre for Environment and Human Health (www.ecehh.com) in the University of Exeter Medical School in Truro Cornwall (UK); I am also a Professor Emerita (with tenure) from the University of Miami Schools of Medicine and Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences. I have never met in person or worked with Dr Markevych; I have had the pleasure of hearing a 30 minute talk by her about some of her research on ADHD about a month ago online and I have read some of her papers previously as part of my own research and teaching in environmental epidemiology and health. I reviewed her submitted (English) documents which included her lists of accomplishments, achievements and several papers published in the excellent peer reviewed journals.

Dr Markevych received a PhD (2015) in Human Biology and Masters in Epidemiology (2012) PhD in Human Biology from the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany; and a MSc in Environmental Sciences (Ecology and Environmental Protection) from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine. Her PhD dissertation was entitled "Satellite-derived data on greenness and access to green spaces are related to child ren's health indicators" and she received an award for the best PhD dissertation in Epidemiology in the year 2016 by the German Society for Medical Informatics, Biometry and Epidemiology (GMDS). From 3/2015 until 12/2019, she was a Postdoctoral research fellow at the Institute of Epidemiology, Helmholtz Zentrum Munich and at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Neuberberg and Munich, Germany. She has had her current position of Research group leader of the NeuroSmog project at the Institute of Psychology, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland since 11/2019.

During this relatively very short time (and in junior academic positions until Nov 2019), Dr Markevych has achieved a remarkable and excellent publication record of over 60

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papers cited by 2634 in excellent peer reviewed journals in her field of environmental epidemiology (e.g. Environmental Health perspectives, Environment International, Chest, Plos One, etc). In addition, her research has taken place in Europe and China with diverse cohorts and large interdisciplinary research groups, focusing on various environmental exposures (e.g. green space, noise, pollen, air pollution), a variety of health outcomes (e.g. ADHD, allergies), frequently but exclusively in children or in birth cohorts, and including methodologic, theoretical and descriptive epidemiologic aspects. Although relatively recent, some of these publications are already receiving citations (2634 per Google Scholar), an indication of their immediate impact and importance within her field.

In addition Dr Markevych has published and performed research with internationally recognised and excellent research groups and collaborators (e.g. ISGlobal). Although her primary author publications are still relatively few, the number where she is first, second, senior and/or corresponding author are growing. And her position as a methodologist in some of larger international projects means that for her to be in the first 5-10 co authors is entirely appropriate for her essential contributions to the research. She has been a Guest Editor for 2 volumes of the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, and a regular reviewer for the excellent journals mentioned above in which she has published. Furthermore she has already presented as an invited speaker and session chair at several and diverse international conferences, another mark of the regard that her research is already held in the international community.

In terms of research funding, she is currently the Co-Principal Investigator and Epidemiology Lead of the "NeuroSmog: Determining the impact of air pollution on the developing brain" (ERDF funding). She has been a Project Principal Investigator/Lead for 3 interdisciplinary German-funded studies and Participant (and de facto task leader) in a large international EU Horizon 2020 Project, and previously participating in 2 European Framework 7 large studies. She clearly has already excellent potential for obtaining future EU and other research and training funding as a Principal Investigator, a valued international Partner and as an interdisciplinary methodologist (which provides funding flexibility and resiliency).

No teaching is mentioned in the paperwork I received so I assume this is not considered an essential job characteristic. However, she has co-supervised a PhD student with resulting 5 published papers, a very productive result and impressive again at her relatively junior level

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during that supervision. She has also co-supervised PhD student and other short visiting internships, again resulting in publications. I will note that the online presentation I recently heard by Dr Markevych online was well organized, clear, and an excellent overview of her fascinating ongoing research, and she answered all questions appropriately and fully.

I recommend that Dr Markevych be promoted as soon as possible to Habilitated Doctor based on her remarkable and excellent track record to date in terms of obtaining high impact interdisciplinary funded research and producing numerous publications in less than a decade in academia (including during her training). It is clear that she already has international recognition, substantial and diverse interdisciplinary and international research funding, and access to international databases and collaborations in the area of environmental epidemiology and health internationally, with expertise in child health, multiple health outcomes and environmental exposures (both risks and benefits).

Dr Markevych is clearly a rising international star!

Yours sincerely

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