
Pavel Vopálenský

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Senior scientist at IOCB Prague (Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry of the CAS)

Expertise and focus:	I was trained as a biochemist/molecular biologist at UCT (masters) and at the Charles University (PhD). Afterwards, during my postdocs at EMBL Heidelberg and Max-Planck Institute in Dresden, I further specialized in evolutionary/developmental biology working with non-model invertebrate organisms as well as zebrafish. Apart from academic experience, I have a 1 year experience in H2020 project management and 2.5 years experience from preclinical R&D in a pharma company. Currently I am working as a senior scientist in RNA biology at IOCB Prague.
Form of mentoring meetings:	Either way, online or offline
Has an experience in:	Academic career, Career in the private sector
	Link to CV

Previous mentoring experience:	After gaining experience in industry and transiting back to academia, I encountered students thinking about leaving academia to industry, coming to me and asking about my decisions and experience, not only from industry but also from international research institutes. I was happy to share my experience and helped several students with job hunting, preparing their CV and cover letters for their applications.
Motivation:	My motivation to become a mentor has three parts: 1) I would have appreciated if a mentoring program was around the time I was finishing my PhD studies and someone guided me through the transition to PostDoc, made me aware of necessary steps (applying for grants timely etc). I find this formation very important in researcher's life and would like to help young scientists in this respect. 2) Having experience both from international academic institutions and industry, I might help the young scientist to be aware of the situation and duties in both settings. 3) I generally enjoy discussing these topics with people in a one-to-one (protected) setting and became positive feedback on my advices.
Career guidance topics you can discuss with the mentor:	• Career change, change of field • Differences between academic and non-academic careers • Navigating the job market, employment opportunities

Research related experience the mentor is ready to share with the mentee:	• Preparation of scientific publications - how to do it correctly, efficiently, and with quality • Management of science and research in an academic institution • Consultation on preparation for a job interview • Path to an academic position abroad • Transition from academia to the private sector
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