

## HABILITATION THESIS REVIEWER'S REPORT

### Masaryk University

#### Applicant

Jakub Hlávka, Ph.D.

#### Habilitation thesis

Economics to the Rescue: Balancing Innovation and Access to High-Cost Therapies

#### Reviewer

doc. JUDr. Ivan Malý, CSc.

#### Reviewer's home unit, institution

Department of Public Economics  
Masaryk University

The submitted habilitation thesis is a commented collection of five articles that have been published in peer-reviewed journals. The articles are thematically linked by the challenges of ensuring the financial sustainability of healthcare systems in the context of accelerating technological progress, while also ensuring the availability of highly expensive life-saving treatments through innovative reimbursement mechanisms and pricing strategies.

Overall, the submitted articles make a valuable contribution to economic theory and practical health policy. They demonstrate the author's ability to produce high-quality research outputs that meet current global publication standards. They also show that the author is an internationally well-connected figure with links to leading research teams. The selected articles demonstrate impressive methodological diversity, ranging from the use of a stylised theoretical model of the effective interaction between drug manufacturers, payers and recipients, to empirical research employing a Markov transition model, microsimulation and a regression discontinuity over time (RDiT) framework.

The commentary meets the standard expectations and required parameters of the field, providing a comprehensive overview of the submitted works alongside the theoretical basis and methodology of the research. The summary of the results and specification of the overall contribution are clear and well-prepared. The author's own contribution is clearly stated.

As far as formal requirements are concerned, these have also been met. All five articles are indexed in the JCR, and at least one has been published in a Q1 journal (I did not check the others). The applicant is listed as the corresponding author for two articles.

The submitted habilitation thesis is therefore assessed as fully complying with the required standards for habilitation at Masaryk University. Based on this work, the candidate appears to be a highly competent and well-rounded scientific figure who meets and exceeds the requirements for the title of „docent“.

### Reviewer's questions for the habilitation thesis defence:

1. In the context of the first selected study (Hlávka et al., 2021), could you specify where the value of health improvement in your model comes from, or how you dealt with

Pauly's (2017a) reservation pointing to the fact that different patients may value the same health improvement differently?

2. How much inspiration do you think can be gained from the innovative payment mechanisms you have examined, and how much potential do they have to address the problem of broader access to costly, innovative treatments within the compulsory, universal public health insurance system?

## **Conclusion**

The habilitation thesis entitled *Economics to the Rescue: Balancing Innovation and Access to High-Cost Therapies* by Jakub Hlávka, Ph.D. **fulfils** requirements expected of a habilitation thesis in the field of Public Economics.

Date: 17.8.2025

Signature: