

## HABILITATION BOARD DECISION ON THE NOMINATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

<b>Masaryk University</b>	
<b>Faculty</b>	Faculty of Economics and Administration
<b>Procedure field</b>	Public Economics
<b>Applicant</b>	Jakub Hlávka, Ph.D.
<b>Applicant's home unit, institution</b>	Health Economics, Policy and Innovation Institute, Faculty of Economics and Administration, Masaryk University
<b>Habilitation thesis</b>	Economics to the Rescue: Balancing Innovation and Access to High-Cost Therapies

### Board members

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**prof. Ing. Juraj Nemec, CSc.**

Faculty of Economics and Administration, Masaryk University

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Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

**doc. Ing. Peter Pažitný, Ph.D., MSc.**

Faculty of Management, Prague University of Economics and Business

**Ron Handels, PhD**

Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences, Maastricht University

### Evaluation of the applicant's scholarly/artistic qualifications

The applicant published 16 articles in a scholarly journals listed in the WoS database, some of them in top ranked journals. From this point of view his publication activity exceeds the requirements for the promotion. The WoS system registers 371 citations on his articles, the Google scholar more than 1600 citations.

The research activities of the applicant focus on the intersection of health policy and economics, with a particular emphasis on health care innovation and aging, and health system performance and reform, particularly in relation to health care financing and addressing inequality in access. He has devoted significant efforts to studying the economics of ageing populations, particularly Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

The applicant served/ serves as the principal investigator in several projects. He received grants from leading funding agencies, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Greenwall Foundation, PhRMA Foundation. During his appointment at the ESF MU he managed to win the large scale-project "Ageing of the population and related challenges for health and social systems (AGEING-CZ). The provider of this project is the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the CR, the project is co-financed by EU. Recently he also succeeded in the EU Horizon scheme – he serves as the MUNI principal investigator of the project „In-Touch: Implementation of a person-centered palliative care intervention to improve

comfort, quality of life and social engagement of people with advanced dementia in Care Homes (101137270).

In a rapidly evolving academic landscape, it is increasingly necessary for scholars to transcend hyper-specialisation and engage with the study of complex systems, while maintaining the integrity of their disciplinary identity. Cultivating this capacity will be an important element in the candidate's further academic progression.

**Conclusion:** The applicant's scholarly/artistic capabilities **meet** the requirements expected of applicants participating in a habilitation procedure in the field of Public Economics.

### **Evaluation of the applicant's pedagogical experience**

Despite to the fact that the applicant served dominantly in research positions in all his previous appointments, his pedagogical experience and outputs are sufficient to prove the capacity to teach at a university level. Since 2019, he has taught at the master's level at the University of Southern California (the Master of Public Health (MPH) and Master of Health Administration (MHA) programs at USC). The coursework has covered core courses in health care systems and policy, using real-world case studies and data-driven analysis from his own research. The teaching experience of the applicant includes teaching at USC Keck School of Medicine, USC Price School of Public Policy, the Cancer Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE) program and the International Research Scholars program at USC.

Additionally, the applicant regularly lectures at international academic events and summer schools, sharing insights on health economics and policy with students and professionals worldwide.

From 2024 the applicant serves as the guarantor of the new master's program in Applied Health Economics the Masaryk University.

The applicant published five textbooks (including textbook sub-chapters) and seven compilations and educational texts and presentations.

**Conclusion:** The applicant's pedagogical capabilities **meet** the requirements expected of applicants participating in a habilitation procedure in the field of Public Economics.

### **Habilitation thesis evaluation**

The habilitation thesis is written in the form of the commented collection of already published papers. The thesis explores the intersection of health economics, regulatory policy, and innovation, focusing on the real-world challenges posed by high-cost, potentially transformative medical therapies. The candidate has published five articles in international peer-reviewed journals included in this thesis - each of the core chapters represents on its own a successful publication in international professional journals. Overall, the chapters in the habilitation are innovative, well-written and present new and important scientific and, most importantly, policy-relevant results.

The thesis demonstrates a great attitude to employ an interdisciplinary approach, combining economic modelling, econometric analyses, microsimulations and systematic reviews to address questions of wide relevance both for the scientific debate and for the policy debate. The core strengths of the thesis mentioned by reviewers are the use of a wide range of methods: economic modelling and optimization to Markov models, microsimulation modelling, regression analysis and systematic reviews; the relevance of this topic, given the emergence of very costly cell and gene therapies; the examination of different aspects relevant for research and development through to market access including trial endpoint selection and



pricing. The thesis provides methodological advances in the analysis of regulator's trial endpoints and theoretical modelling of pricing mechanisms.

The reviewers mentioned only few marginal comments related to the contents of the thesis – related especially to possible methodological follow-up.

The submitted habilitation thesis fully complies with the required standards for habilitation at Masaryk University. The text demonstrates that the applicant is a highly competent and well-rounded scientific figure who meets and exceeds the requirements for the title of „docent“, as confirmed by all three reviews.

*Habilitation thesis reviewers:*

- doc. JUDr. Ivan Malý, CSc. (Faculty of Economics and Administration, Masaryk University)
- Prof. Paola Bertoli, Ph.D. (Department of Economics, University of Verona)
- Sabine Grimm, PhD (Care and Public Health Research Institute, Maastricht University)

**Conclusion:** The applicant's habilitation thesis **meets** the requirements expected of habilitation theses in the field of Public Economics.

**Secret ballot results**

Number of board members	5
Number of votes cast	5
Number of votes in favour	5

**Board decision**

Based on the outcome of the secret vote and following an evaluation of the applicant's scholarly or artistic qualifications, pedagogical experience and habilitation thesis, the board hereby submits a proposal to the scientific board of the Faculty of Economics and Administration of Masaryk University to



appoint the applicant associate professor of Public Economics.



terminate the procedure.

Date: 29.09.2025

prof. Ing. Juraj Nemec, CSc.

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