

Nomination of Dr. Libor Grubhoffer for an Honorary Degree of Science  
from  
The University of Arizona

Dr. Libor Grubhoffer is currently Rector (President) of the University of South Bohemia (USB) in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic.

*Background:* A parasitologist and biochemist, Dr. Grubhoffer received a master's degree from Charles University in Prague and a PhD from the Institute of Microbiology of the Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS). He then became a research scientist at the CAS Institute of Parasitology. USB, established in 1991, shares a campus with several CAS Institutes, including the Institute of Parasitology.

*Interaction with UA:* Following the Velvet Revolution in 1989 Grubhoffer accepted a postdoctoral position with Dr. Michael Wells in the UA Department of Biochemistry. Grubhoffer worked with students in the Undergraduate Biology Research Program (UBRP), founded by Wells, and was key in the development of an NIH proposal to fund international undergraduate research experiences that has been funded ever since. Upon return to the Czech Republic he became a foreign mentor for the NIH funded BRAVO! Program. He has hosted eight UA BRAVO! students and one UA faculty member. During the summer of 2015 he made it possible for ten UA undergraduates to work in laboratories of Institute scientists. He also identified and facilitated research visits to UA for three faculty and seven Czech graduate students. Since 1993 USB and UA have had an Institutional Memorandum of Agreement.

Grubhoffer returned to UA in 1995 for a research visit with Dr. John Law, Director of the Center for Insect Science, to organize and host an international Biology of Disease Vectors meeting.

*Institutional Leadership:* Grubhoffer, who became USB Rector in 2012, has established programs that internationalize USB students' education and strengthen cooperation between the USB and the CAS Institutes. He established a double bachelor's degree program and a joint master's degree program with Johannes Kepler University in Linz, Austria and a new bachelor's of informatics program with that institution in 2012. More than 100 degrees have been granted through these programs.

Grubhoffer became Rector at a time of economic downturn and yet has been successful in making significant improvements in the campus infrastructure by securing funds to build new facilities for the Faculties of Science, Fishery and Protection of Waters, and Agriculture. Grubhoffer has encouraged Czech students to study abroad under the Erasmus Program and has welcomed international students and scholars to the USB campus.

*Scientific Accomplishments:* Grubhoffer focuses on the biochemistry and molecular biology of disease vectors. He maintains a research laboratory at the Institute of Parasitology. He has had 15 externally funded grants and has been involved in ten international projects. He is the author of 120 scientific articles and serves on a variety of scientific and advisory boards.

In short, Grubhoffer has accomplished a great deal both at home and abroad since his post-doc at UA. His contributions to UA, to USB, and to advancing international understanding deserve recognition via an Honorary Degree from the University of Arizona.