

TO THE PRESIDENT,

THE PALACKY UNIVERSITY AT OLOMOUC and ITS FRIENDS & GUARDIANS

Dated 16th June 2019

About Professor Radek Zboril and RCPTM

I, Rajender Varma (H-Index 105, Highly Cited Researchers 2016-18, Publons Awardee 2018), Senior Scientist at U S Environmental Protection Agency, have been working at RCPTM for several years. Importantly, I serve as a leader and key researcher for the scientific activity in the project Excellent Research, “Nanotechnologies for Future”. Also, I am a board member for most of the leading journals in the world on Green and Sustainable themes.

Last week, I came to deliver the Keynote lecture at the International meeting “Green for Good V” arranged by our university in Olomouc. Soon, I realized that something is not normal as Prof. Radek Zboril called for a ‘All Hands’ meeting at the center after my talk on 13th June 2019. I was deeply shocked to learn about what happened to Prof. Tucek, one of the top physicists in Europe besides ethical issue related to 12-years old story in JACS 2007 implicating Radek Zboril. I can not comment on this story at all because it was well before my time. **However, based on my personal experience, I would like to point out that RCPTM is a top-notch European Center with highly ethical standards required by the director.** Personally I have written numerous proposals and papers with Prof. Zboril and in my experience, he has been labeled as a very tough person, requiring lots of supporting data.

However, as I arrived back in my office in Cincinnati, Ohio, I could not comprehend the situation where a university picks up on individuals with an extraordinary and sterling performance and basically destroy one of the top European institutions. Internationally, I have heard of external boards that oversee any such irregularity of this kind as the internal oversight is often plagued with bias and poor judgement.

Additionally, I am deeply concerned about the the successful culmination of the above-mentioned project with a huge budget. **I believe that the president of the university and its his team of responsible well-wishers should ensure the optimum conditions for conducting the project**

smoothly. Currently it is a real issue and any impediments need to be removed so that project(s) can proceed.

My sincere hope is that with the involvement of several other world-renowned scientists, our university's name is at stake and need not be meligned or disparaged any further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rajender Singh Varma". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Prof. Rajender S. Varma, Ph.D.

(Highly Cited Researcher 2016-18 and Publons Awardee 2018)

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