



# Welcome Invitation



**Tomas Hudecek**  
Mayor, City of Prague,



**Ivan Raška**  
Charles University



**Dušan Cmarko**  
Charles University

Dear Professor Hirokawa, I have learned from the Prague Convention Bureau that you are officially considering Prague as the venue for the International Congress of Cell Biology in 2016. I wish to inform you that I, as Mayor of the City of Prague, strongly support this initiative. You may already know that Prague has a vast history of hosting many international keynote meetings in a wide variety of fields. We would be delighted to see such a prestigious event being held in our beautiful city. Prague has an exceptionally high standard of convention facilities, an excellent hotel infrastructure and an effective and efficient transport system, which we believe will meet the standard of all delegates attending. I therefore hope that Prague and the Czech Republic will have the honor and the pleasure to host this significant event in 2016. Yours sincerely,

Dear Members of the IFCB Committee:

On behalf of the Czech Society for Cell Biology, we express the firm intention and great enthusiasm concerning our bid to host the 2016 International Congress of Cell Biology in Prague, Czech Republic. We emphasize that our bid is supported by a number of local and international institutions and organizations.

If our bid is successful, our imminent task is to secure the congress participation of the best scientists in cell biology and related disciplines. In fact, we have already performed conditional steps in this respect. In addition, we have already obtained conditional support from a number of European scientific organizations, societies and associations. We are thus confident that at least four thousand scientists will attend the congress.

Prague is a charming city situated in the very heart of Europe. It has a rich history, magnificent architecture, and a unique culture. With a central location, we anticipate, besides a large number of non-European scientists, the participation of many investigators and students from not only Western Europe, but also Central and Eastern Europe, and particularly from those countries which recently joined the European Union. The meeting would be an excellent opportunity for forming new regional collaborations and networks, as well as providing a format for further introducing non-European scientists to their central and eastern European colleagues. Our strategic task will be to secure maximum participation of PhD students and early postdoctoral fellows from various countries, and to provide convenient conditions for their participation. We shall do our best in order for the congress to become an outstanding scientific event. At the same time, we are confident that the congress will be an excellent cultural and social event.

If we are successful in our application, the meeting would be coordinated by the experienced professional congress organization company C-IN. A meeting of this size would be held in the Prague congress center. This facility is centrally located and can host up to 10,000 delegates. The congress center is adjacent to several major hotels, as well as to the city's underground transport system.

We hope you will consider our application to host the meeting, and we hope that we can look forward to welcoming you in Prague. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or if we may be of assistance in any way.

Yours sincerely,

**Prof. Ivan Raška**  
Chairman, the Czech Society for Cell Biology

**Associate Prof. Dušan Cmarko**  
Vice-Chairman, the Czech Society for Cell Biology

