



Lukas RYCEK



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Supervisor: Marko Mihovilovic,
TU Wien

Co-Supervisor: Margot Ernst,
Medical University of Vienna

Thesis title: Synthesis and
Biological Evaluation of Natural
Products and Derivatives as
potential Anti-Inflammatory
Agents and GABA_A Receptor
Modulators.

Current Position and Employer:
Assistant Prof., Dept. of Organic
Chemistry, Charles University
Prague, Czech Republic

MolTag alumni page:

[Lukas Rycek \(univie.ac.at\)](https://univie.ac.at)

Social network:

[Lukas Rycek, PhD.](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

How would you summarize your thesis results in 3 sentences?

We synthesized several derivatives of natural products. In the collaboration with MolTag partners (and others) we evaluated them as modulators of GABA_A receptors and for potential anti-inflammatory activity. We developed few compounds with superior activity and selectivity towards the targets of interest compared to the lead natural products.

What was the impact of the MolTag program on your further career?

MolTag is a great opportunity to learn about different, yet somehow related disciplines. One more thing is that **MolTag was all about cooperation between groups**. This is not easy, because different people have different priorities. The cooperation in MolTag worked mostly well and I could learn, how to deal with such a challenge. **All this made me realize, what is the role of my own discipline in the broader perspective** and based on it, I can better understand what I want to do within my field and my current career develops accordingly.

What did you particularly like about the MolTag program?

The multidisciplinary. We had to attend all kind of seminars and listen to many presentations. And to be honest, in the beginning I quite often had difficulties to understand what my colleagues or specialists from different fields were presenting. But with time, I started to understand their "language" and out of sudden, things started to make much more sense. **So what looked in the beginning like a waste of time turned out to be a great investment of it. The coin has of course two sides.** I tried to do my best to make others understand the "language I was speaking" and make them aware of what my field is about. I also have to mention the financial side. There were always resources.

