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## Silvia Bendíková: Team leader for next generation sequencing

„I would advise new Life science graduates not to be too picky at the beginning of their careers. Even if you don't get your dream position right after finishing university, take it as an opportunity to gain experience and always show your best performance. Because you never know when this experience lays background and opens the door to the project you will really love.”

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Foto: SB

Silvia Bendíková  
MultiplexDX International  
Sector: Biotech  
Position: Team leader for next generation sequencing

I studied molecular biology and genetics at Masaryk University in Brno. During this period, I did my thesis at CEITEC Institute on Cancer Research, which focused on liquid biopsy markers and miRNA regulation using RNA sequencing as a primary method.

Sequencing, biostatistics, and making sense of sequencing data fascinated me. The desire to solve the sequencing puzzle in the context of molecular processes in the human body inspired me to continue with a Ph.D. I completed my Ph.D. at Comenius University Fac. of Natural Sciences. Unfortunately, the sequencing project that I was supposed to deal with did not start, so I started a biotechnology project on a very fast-growing bacterium; I genetically modified it and produced some industrially significant proteins in it.

Even when my original plan – working on a sequencing-related project, did not work, I considered these four years as an opportunity to learn a multitude of laboratory methods, learn how to work in a laboratory independently, and be a team player. Moreover, considering we live in the era of CRISPR-Cas9 editing, my curiosity ab-

out the whole genetic-engineering topic brought me to a successful end.

During my Ph.D. studies, I participated in the lecture of the CEO of MultiplexDX dr. Pavol Čekan, and since then, I have known I wanted to work at MultiplexDX. The address was about developing the most accurate test for breast cancer patients, using sequencing as one of the methods for results cross-validation. The great expectations of this started project were a dream challenge to me. Even more so because MultiplexDX is a Slovak company with such ambitious mission.

I felt fortunate when I got hired by MultiplexDX. I have started in the commercial part of the company. With my colleagues, I purified prepared oligonucleotides for internal and external needs. I was persistent, and it paid off. Later, when there was an opportunity, I became part of the R&D team and started to work in the Sequencing team.

It means working in the field where molecular biology meets bioinformatics and biostatistics and where literature from before ten years is considered obsolete.