What lies ahead for the coronavirus (and all other viruses)?

We asked Professor Ferenc Jakab, Head of the National Laboratory of Virology and Vice-Rector of the UP?

When is the next wave of the coronavirus epidemic expected?

There are many epidemiological factors that influence the infection rate of a given virus, so it is not worth talking about waves. We must recognize that the coronavirus is among us and will remain among us. In the autumn-winter period it will be more intense, with more cases, more hospitalisations, more deaths, more severe cases, and a period of relative calm, mild latency and a decreasing number of infections in spring and summer. The latter does not mean that the virus has disappeared, it just means that there are fewer cases, and the number of infections will never, in my opinion, be zero.

Do you think that there will be a drug specifically for coronavirus, and with regard to vaccines, is it expected that they will be administered before the seasonality and/or a guaranteed period can be covered by a vaccine? The latter seems so uncertain at the moment.  
There is a huge difference between the situation now and the time when this epidemic burst and we had to vaccinate.

Initially, we had to work with all our might, in epidemiology, in health, in vaccine development, to bring the coronavirus epidemic to an end in some way, shape or form, because it was terribly damaging from a health point of view, economically and socially.

We are past that period, we no longer have to put out the fire, but we have to look after the remaining embers so that we do not let it flare up again. I believe that this ember will never go out.

We can avoid mass disease with vaccines and with the drug treatments that we are constantly developing all over the world, including here in Pécs. Better and better vaccines will be coming out, including some that will be able to trigger an immune response not only against one type of coronavirus but against several types of coronavirus together. I am also sure that drug therapy prevention will also evolve, as vaccines do not always achieve the goal, not all people can be vaccinated - they need to have the option of drug treatment. I would caution everyone against giving themselves a vaccine every 3-4 months, I think it makes no sense. I think that the first two vaccines were very important in the fire-fighting, and the third vaccine is terribly important to prevent the epidemic from flaring up again. But vaccinations from now lie in the future.