The UP wins grant for research on Covid-19 disease

The University of Pécs has been awarded a HUF 1.5 billion grant for the project "Human clinical and preclinical research of the HECRIN Consortium on COVID-19 disease, post-COVID syndrome" under the Health sub-program of the National Research, Development and Innovation Office's Thematic Excellence Program 2021.

Prof. Dr. L. Gábor Kovács, Professor at the University of Pécs, project leader, summarized the project's technical content as follows:

"Upon the appearance of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus in Hungary, the Virology Research Group at the Szentágothai János Research Center of the University of Pécs immediately started diagnostic studies in Hungary and the region.

The work of the group was greatly assisted by the fact that the Hungarian government established the Coronavirus Research Action Group in mid-March 2020, under the leadership of Dr. Ferenc Jakab, Professor of Virology at the University of Pécs. The primary task of the task force is to coordinate Hungarian research and to develop specific treatments to combat the virus infection and to treat infected people. Although much of the research was carried out in the special biosafety level 4 laboratory of the Szentágothai János Research Center of the University of Pécs, the involvement of national and international collaborators was also very important. Several biotechnology companies and several research groups participated in the studies, with a total of about 20 collaborating partners," said L. Gábor Kovács.

L. Gábor Kovács, Széchenyi Prize-winning professor at the UP

The aim of the thematic research is to prepare investigator-driven human clinical trials that will help to find cures for COVID-19 and post-COVID syndrome. For example, they will carry out laboratory, preclinical and clinical studies related to SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, as well as the neurological and psychological consequences of COVID-19 infection without hospitalisation using quantitative MR imaging methods.