Further development of the National Laboratory of Virology

The National Laboratory of Virology of the University of Pécs is facing a huge development. Thanks to the recently awarded grant RRF-2.3.1-21-2022-00010, the research performance and R&D activities of the virology laboratory unit will increase, and its participation in national and international research networks will be expanded. This was the subject of a press conference held on 28th July at the Szentágothai Research Center by Kata Dobay, Project Manager, and Professor Ferenc Jakab, Head of the National Laboratory of Virology.

The 1.252.000.000 HUF non-refundable EU grant will enable the experts to do outstanding work in the detection of new emerging infectious diseases. In addition, the researchers will test BSL3 and BSL4 viruses in risk groups 3 and 4 under laboratory conditions. Most importantly, the grant will also enable the establishment of an internationally recognised BSL-3 and BSL-4 education and training centre, which is essential for the training of future generations.

 The focus will remain the same: we are looking at so-called viral zoonoses transmitted from animals to humans.

With this funding, international collaborations will become possible, both with scientific and corporate partners, that have not been possible before.

Another major benefit of the grant is that we will be able to further develop the laboratory." - Professor Jakab said and added: "Obviously, we cannot predict epidemics, but trends are emerging: in particular, the number of infections transmitted by animal vectors (mosquitoes, ticks, etc.) has started to increase, and many of these are expected to trigger a wave of infections and epidemics similar to the coronavirus. These are what we are seeing, assessing and working on," said Professor Jakab.