



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Based on the Agreement for Academic Cooperation and Exchange between The Trustees of Indiana University on behalf of the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center (IU-SCCC), Indianapolis, IN, USA, and the National Cancer Institute (NCI, Národný onkologický ústav), Bratislava, Slovakia, signed in June 2022:

1. In April 2023, the director of the National Oncology Institute, Mária Rečková, M.D., Ph.D., participated in the meetings at Indiana University Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center (IU-SCCC) in Indianapolis, IN. This **business trip** focused on mapping the possibilities for further cooperation development.
2. **The 2nd Joint Symposium**, "Conversations about Critical Care: Focus on Testicular Cancer," was organized in a hybrid form on November 8th, 2023, at the NCI in Bratislava. The Symposium was opened by directors of both collaborating institutions, Dr. Kelvin Lee and Ing. Tomas Alscher. The main topic was presented and discussed with Slovak experts, distinguished guests, IU-SCCC experts, Dr. Cairiona A. Buckley, Dr. Roberto F. Machado, Dr. John W. Wolfe, and Dr. Yar Luan Yeap. The number of participants – on site: 58, online: 40. The program and booklet from the Symposium, together with the list of participants, are attached to this report.

The topic of next year's Joint Symposium has already been discussed with Dr. Kelvin Lee, Dr. Michal Mego, Dr. Andrej Vranovsky, Dr. Lubos Drgona, and Dr. Maria Reckova. It will include conversations on hematooncology, CAR-T, cell therapy, and immunotherapy.
3. The discussion continued, creating the **Indiana-Slovakia Oncology Fellowship**. The curricula were created by working teams from both institutions and are attached to this report. The working group from IU-SCCC consisted of Dr. Nasser H. Hanna and Dr. Ahmed Al-Hader, and the NCI working group consisted of Dr. Michal Mego, Dr. Maria Reckova, Dr. Michal Chovanec, and Dr. Sona Ciernikova.
4. Zuzana Orszaghova, MD from the 2nd Oncology Clinic, Faculty of Medicine, Comenius University and National Cancer Institute in Bratislava, attended the **NOI Fellowship based on NOI grant** from April till June 2023 with a topic: Late toxicity of germ-cell



tumor treatment at the IU-SCCC under the supervision of Dr. Nabil Adra. The report from this fellowship is available at: <https://www.noisk.sk/professional/research-and-development/noi-grants/awarded-noi-grants>.

5. Information about collaboration between IU-SCCC, Indianapolis, and NCI, Bratislava, is available at the **webpage of the National Oncology Institute**, Bratislava: <https://www.noisk.sk/about-us/international-cooperation/indiana-university>

In Bratislava, January 30th, 2024

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