

## Science and education in Pharmacy for economic growth of Slovenia – today and tomorrow

A Symposium to honour full membership of Slovenia in the European infrastructure for translational medicine (EATRIS) was organized by University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Pharmacy (UL FFA) in cooperation with Slovenian pharmaceutical society in February 2017. The main-stream of the symposia was discussion on the importance of partnerships between academic institutions and pharmaceutical industry in the axis research-development-economic success. More than 100 participants from pharma industry, governmental and research organizations, academia and pharmacy profession have attended the symposium.

The necessary alliances, organization changes and infrastructure utilization were discussed by senior representatives of the leading Slovenian pharma companies Lek and Krka, Ministry of Education, science and sport, Government office for development and European cohesion policy, Slovenian research agency, Slovenian Innovation Hub SIS EGIZ, National institute of chemistry and Faculty of pharmacy during the workshop.

The discussion highlighted several important conclusions:

- Only highly qualified staff can continue to achieve excellent business results in pharmaceutical industry.
- Knowledge-based economy will require a change in policies and ambitious projects integrated with academia.
- One can only get involved in European infrastructure when presenting research excellence. A strong support of national policy by supporting basic research is of utmost importance in this respect.
- The governmental support for full membership of Slovenia in the EATRIS is one of the important steps which allow integration of Slovenian researchers and academic institutions into the European space in the field of biomedicine and pharmacy. It is also a prerequisite for new breakthroughs and especially for maintaining good scientific fitness in the ERA.



Distinguished guests who accepted the invitation to actively participation in the workshop discussion, led by prof. dr. Irena Mlinarič-Raščan, vice-dean for Scientific Research at the FFA (left to right):

*Dr. Albin Kralj*, Coordinator of research infrastructure, Ministry of education, science and sport

*Prof. dr. Borut Božič*, Dean, Faculty of pharmacy

*Mag. Vojmir Urlep*, President of the Board of Management, Lek a Sandoz company

*Dr. Alenka Rožaj Brvar*, Director, Slovenian Innovation Hub SIS EGIZ

*Dr. Aleš Rotar*, Senior Vice President and Director of Development and production of drugs, Krka

*Prof. dr. Gregor Anderluh*, Director, National institute of chemistry

*Dr. Peter Wostner*, Senior Government Advisor, Policy Expert & Researcher, Government office for development and European cohesion policy

*Prof. Dr. József Györkös*, Director of the Slovenian Research Agency

