



Webinar

COVID-19: Biomedical, Social and Legal Aspects

A joint event organised by UNICA members Eötvös Loránd University and Semmelweis University

**8th October 2020
9:00–12:45**

**Participation is free, but registration is compulsory
via [this link](#).**

In the spring of 2020, the world had to face never-before-seen challenges due to the outbreak and rapid spread of the COVID-19 disease. The pandemic has caused serious difficulties in the health-care system of the affected countries, have had an enormous effect on almost all spheres of society and the economy, evoking complex legal questions and situations around the globe.

The Budapest-based Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) and Semmelweis University (SE), two member institutions of the [UNICA network of universities from the Capitals of Europe](#) (53 universities in 37 capital cities) organise a joint webinar inviting other UNICA member universities to address the biomedical, social, and legal aspects of COVID-19.

In the framework of the event, presenters from Ankara University, Charles University of Prague, Eötvös Loránd University, Humboldt University of Berlin, Semmelweis University, and University of Edinburgh will approach different realms of handling the challenges caused by the pandemics in European countries, such as the various aspects of its clinical management, testing, its economic, legal-administrative, and social impact.

FINAL PROGRAMME

9:00 WELCOME ADDRESSES OF RECTORS AND UNICA PRESIDENT LUCIANO SASO

9:15–9:45 KEYNOTE SPEECH – Novel Coronavirus Epidemic in the Hungarian Population: A cross-sectional nationwide survey to support the exit policy in Hungary BY **Béla MERKELY**, Professor, Rector, Head of the Clinical Epidemiology Analysis Working Group, Semmelweis University

9:45 SESSION I. BIOMEDICAL ASPECTS

Moderator: **Attila SZABÓ**, Professor, Vice-Rector for Clinical Affairs, President of the Clinical Centre, Semmelweis University

COVID – Role of Universities – Medicine and Science by **Tomaš ZIMA**, Rector of Charles University of Prague (15')

Clinical Management of COVID-19 Patients at Semmelweis University by **Veronika MÜLLER**, Professor, Director of the Department of Pulmonology, Semmelweis University (15')

First and second waves of COVID-19 in Spain, Italy and elsewhere: A humanistic Epidemiology perspective by **Joan B Soriano**, Director of the Department of Pulmonology, Hospital Universitario de La Princesa, and **Julio Ancochea**, Professor of the School of Medicine, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (15')

The Social Life of Covid-19 Testing by **Alice Street**, Senior Lecturer, University of Edinburgh (15')

DISCUSSION (30')

11:15 SESSION II. SOCIAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS

Moderator: **Éva Orosz**, Professor, Head of the Doctoral Programme in Social Policy, Doctoral School of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Eötvös Loránd University

Administration and Administrative Law – In the Time of Corona by **István HOFFMAN**, Professor, Faculty of Law, Department of Administrative Law, Eötvös Loránd University (15')

Do Germany's Covid measures violate the constitution? by **Anna-Bettina KAISER**, Professor for Public Law and General Jurisprudence, Humboldt University (15')

The Economic Impact of Covid-19 in Europe by **Türkmen GÖKSEL**, Head of Department of Politics and Economics, Faculty of Political Sciences, Ankara University

DISCUSSION (30')

12:30 CLOSING REMARKS (15')

Biographies and Abstracts



Luciano Saso, President of UNICA

Prof. Luciano Saso (Faculty of Pharmacy and Medicine, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy) received his PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences from Sapienza University in 1992. He is author of more than 220 scientific articles published in peer reviewed international journals with impact factor (SASO-L in www.pubmed.com, total impact factor > 500, H-index Google Scholar 45, Scopus 37). He coordinated several research projects in the field of pharmacology and has been referee for many national and international funding agencies and international scientific journals in the last 30 years. Prof. Saso has extensive experience in international relations and he is currently Vice-Rector for European University Networks at Sapienza University of Rome. In the last 15 years, he participated in several projects including IMS2020, EGRACONS, IMOTION, BUCUM, UZDOC, TRAIN and has been speaker and chair at many international conferences organised by UNICA and other university networks. He coordinates the Sapienza team in the European University CIVIS (www.civis.eu). Prof. Saso has been Member of the Steering Committee of UNICA for two mandates (2011-2015) and in November 2019 he has been re-elected President of UNICA for the second mandate (2019-2023).



Béla Merkely, Rector of Semmelweis University, Director of Semmelweis University's Heart and Vascular Centre

Béla Merkely is a Hungarian interventional and sport cardiologist, HF and EP specialist. He is the director of Semmelweis University's Heart and Vascular Centre since 2007 and the current rector of Semmelweis University since 1 July 2018.

Between 2010 and 2013 he was President of the Hungarian Society of Cardiology, since 2018 he is Honorary President of the Hungarian Society of Cardiology. He is also Honorary President of the Hungarian Heart Rhythm Association. Between 2014 and 2016 he was Councillor, between 2016 and 2018 he was Vice-

President of the European Society of Cardiology.

He played an important role in the organisation of the countrywide STEMI network in Hungary, due to which the rate of thrombolytic therapy for STEMI patients has decreased to <1%.

Béla Merkely is the author of more than 500 peer-reviewed papers.

ABSTRACT. *Background* - After months of restrictive containment efforts to fight the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) epidemic, European countries are planning to reopen. To support the process, we conducted a cross-sectional survey among the Hungarian population to estimate the prevalence of infectious cases and prior SARS-CoV-2 exposure.

Methods - A representative sample (n=17,787) for the Hungarian population of 14 years or older living in private households (n=8,283,810) was selected. The study was performed within 16 days after 50 days of restrictions, when the number of confirmed cases was stable low. Naso- and oropharyngeal smears and blood samples were collected for polymerase-chain reaction (PCR) and antibody testing. The testing was accompanied by a questionnaire about symptoms, comorbidities, and contacts. Design-based prevalence estimates were calculated.

Results - In total, 10,474 individuals (67.7% taken into account a sample frame error of 2,315) of the selected sample participated in the survey. Of the tested individuals, three had positive PCR and 69 had positive serological test. Population estimate of the number of SARS-CoV-2 infection and seropositivity were 2,421 and 56,439, respectively, thus active infection rate (2.9/10,000) and the prevalence of prior SARS-CoV-2 exposure (68/10,000) was low. Self-reported loss of smell or taste and body aches were significantly more frequent among those with SARS-CoV-2.

Conclusion - In this representative, cross-sectional survey of the Hungarian population with a high participation rate, the overall active infection rate was low in sync with the prevalence of prior SARS-CoV-2 exposure. We demonstrated a potential success of containment efforts, supporting an exit strategy.



Attila Szabó, Vice-Rector for Clinical Affairs Semmelweis University

Prof. Attila Szabó (Semmelweis University) received his MD diplom in 1994, PhD in 2000, Doctor of Science (DSc) in 2008 and Habilitation in 2010. He is qualified for pediatrics, nephrology, hypertonology, somnology and healthcare management. He is head of the I. Dept. of Pediatrics at Semmelweis University.

He is author of more than 200 scientific articles published in peer reviewed international journals with impact factor (independent citations: more than 2500, Hirsch index: 31, g index: 49). He coordinated several research projects in the field of pediatrics and nephrology and has been reviewer for many national and international scientific journals. Prof.

Szabo has several research grants and leads a Pediatric Nephrology research group with several postdocs and PhD Prof. Szabo participated in several research and clinical projects and has been speaker and chair at many international conferences.



Tomáš Zima, MD., DSc., Rector of Charles University

Tomáš Zima graduated from the First Faculty of Medicine of Charles University in Prague, in 1990, after which he worked at the Institute of Medical Chemistry and Biochemistry of the First Faculty of Medicine. In 1999, he switched to the Institute of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Diagnostics, which he led until now. In 2001, Mr. Zima became a professor of medical biochemistry. He also specialises in clinical biochemistry, internal medicine and nephrology.

In September 2005 Prof. Zima became the Dean of the CU First Faculty of Medicine, a position that he held for seven years. He is a member of the Learned Society of the Czech Republic, the Czech Medical Academy, and the President of the Czech Rectors' Conference. He is author of more than 400 articles and 7 books. From the 1st of February 2014 Prof. Zima is the Rector of Charles University and on the 20th of October 2017 he was elected as the rector of Charles University for another four-year period on. He is a member of UNICA Steering committee and a member of EUROPAEUM Board of Trustees since 2016.

ABSTRACT. In recent weeks and months, we have experienced and still are experiencing across the Czech Republic, Europe, and the world the situation we have not experienced before. It has surprised and scared us, however many of us have learned to react flexibly to changes and initiate a wave of enthusiasm and volunteering. Charles University, as well as other universities in the Czech Republic, was not intimidated by the situation caused by COVID-19 and has immediately offered the government the capacities of its laboratories and professional expertise. The involvement of medical students of the university has also played an immense role as they have operatively joined the work in hospitals, sanitation services, and call centers, along with other students, including those from abroad.



Veronika Müller, Head of the Department of Pulmonology Semmelweis University Budapest Hungary Graduated from Semmelweis Medical School.

She worked at the Department of Pathophysiology and as postdoctoral fellow from 1995-97 and 2001-02 at the Medical Department University Essen and West Virginia University focusing on fibrosis and chronic graft dysfunction. Since 1999 she works at the Department of Pulmonology Semmelweis University and specialized in respiratory medicine, medical oncology and clinical laboratory medicine. She is vice president of the Hungarian Respiratory Society, is member of the committee for evaluating possibilities for women in science of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, ERS and ESMO. Professor Müller is leading the biggest ILD center in Hungary part of

EMPIRE registry, additional focus is on severe obstructive lung diseases including severe asthma and asthma of elite athletes and postoperative lung transplant care.

ABSTRACT. COVID-19 disease has a major impact on the lungs, presenting in ~20% of infected patients as varying degree pneumonia. In Hungary the first case was registered on the 4th of March 2020 and Semmelweis University opened its central COVID Department on the 9th April 2020. The first experiences and outcomes will be discussed including HR background of physicians and nurses from different departments, workflow of the patient management and treatment possibilities. First wave outcome data and changes implemented in patient care for the second wave are also reviewed.



Joan B Soriano, Medical Epidemiologist, Hospital Universitario de La Princesa, and Honorary Professor of Medicine, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid.

He has 20+ years of experience conducting epidemiological and clinical respiratory research, is Associate Editor for the European Respiratory Journal, The Lancet Respiratory Medicine, and other, and is a frequent lecturer and traveler.

Julio Ancochea, Chest Physician and heads the Pneumology Department, Hospital Universitario de La Princesa

He is Full Professor of Medicine at UAM. He is Chief of the National Health Service COPD Strategy in Spain, at the Ministry of Health; and Coordinator of Health Sciences of the UAM Chancellor.

Since early 2020, Joan and Julio have partnered in 20+ on COVID-19 research initiatives of the AMADIICH think tank, including several clinical trials, e-health and translational research. They are also partners in the Doctor as a Humanist International initiative.

ABSTRACT. The fast spread of SARS-CoV-2 urgently requires evidence to help to mitigate its global harm. Indeed accurate measurement with the appropriate epidemiological indicators associated with COVID-19, and the best available drug and management regimes, are necessary steps to reduce the individual and population burden of the ongoing pandemic.

We are still facing a cruel disease of Biblical proportions, and some countries are already experiencing second waves. However, we have no doubt that whenever this crisis is over, music, theatre, movies, literature and the arts in general, will help to restore balance, and make us all wiser, better persons. The so-called move from omics to humanomics. Beyond modern, ever more technical and robotized medicine, medical humanism in the XXIst century is to be more important than ever.

The experience at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid can be a first step in the right direction. It is envisioned that the arts and other forms of Humanism can help to restore balance, already during the COVID-19 pandemic, but especially afterwards.



Alice Street, Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology at the University of Edinburgh and Principal Investigator for 'Investigating the Design and Use of Diagnostic Devices in Global Health' (DiaDev), funded by the European Research Council.

Her research includes studies of health systems, global health interventions and medical innovation. She has carried out ethnographic research in Papua New Guinea and India and is the author of 'Biomedicine in an Unstable Place: Infrastructure and Personhood in a Papua New Guinean Hospital'.

The DiaDev project focuses on diagnostic innovation in global health contexts of primary health care, elimination campaigns and public health emergencies. Dr. Street is a member of the Royal

Anthropological Institute Medical Committee, the Wellcome Trust Joint Health Systems Research Committee and a co-Editor of *Medicine, Anthropology, Theory*.

ABSTRACT. Testing capacity has taken centre stage of the international response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the epidemic curve has peaked and dipped, so have the meanings and value of testing been dramatically expanded beyond medical and public health uses to include such purposes as restarting economies or regaining intimacy with loved ones. Effective testing strategies have also been revealed to hinge on multiple relationships of trust: including trust in technology, in government, in oneself, and in strangers. In this presentation I will reflect on the social life of COVID-19 testing through research undertaken by a team of social scientists based at the University of Edinburgh and funded by the European Research Council and the Scottish Chief Scientists Office. This research shows that, while promises of certainty are often made for diagnostic tests, the social relationships on which testing depends often generate intense uncertainties in the testing process. Understanding those relationships and

the values they embody, I argue, will be crucial if testing is to be effectively harnessed to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Éva Orosz, PhD in economics, DSc in sociology, professor and head of doctoral programme in social policy, Faculty of Social Sciences, Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE).

She has been working for ELTE since 1990; between 2009 and 2014 she served as the head of Department of Health Policy and Health Economics and the director of the master programme in health policy, planning and financing; between 2014 and 2016 as the Vice-Rector for Education. She worked at OECD Health Division in Paris between 2002 and 2010. Her main research fields are: comparative studies of health care systems, inequalities in health and health care, health expenditure and financing, Hungarian health care reforms. She has provided consultancy services several times for the OECD, WHO, World

Bank since the early 1990s.



István Hoffman, Professor of the Department of Administrative Law at the Faculty of Law of the Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest) and Professor of University of the Department of International Public Law at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Marie Curie-Skłodowska University (Lublin, Poland).

He earned a PhD degree in 2008, the topic of his dissertation was the provision and management of local public services. He has a habilitation, the topic of his habilitation thesis was on the comparison of the different municipal models. His current researches focuses on the provision of local public services and on the major issues of disability law and social law. He is also interested in the issues of local policing. He is participant of a COST Network (CA17102 Polstop) and a lead researcher of a

research group supported by the National Research Grant. He has experiences in the field of practical legal activities, as well. During his PhD studies he worked at the ministries responsible for social and disability affairs and from 2015 to 2016 he was a senior advisor of the Kúria, the Supreme Court of Hungary.

ABSTRACT. The COVID-19 pandemic has been the most significant issue in the field of administrative law in Hungary. Several aspects of the everyday life – which are regulated by the administrative law – have been impacted by the pandemic. First of all, the pandemic was a sudden catastrophe during the first half of the year and for preparing the defence against the disease, a state of emergency was introduced. The introduction of the state of emergency resulted harsh legal disputes, as well. This situation was strange, and our legal regulation was not fully adequate to the situation. Some of the emergency legislations have remained in force after the official state of emergency ended on 18 June 2020, leaving lasting traces on the Hungarian legal system. The presentation examines the transformation of the administrative regulations from two perspectives. First, the transformation of the administrative licensing and permissions are scrutinised by it. Secondly, the interpretation of self-government has been transformed by different reforms, firstly, by the centralisation of the resource and service

provision and secondly, the increasing the scope of the local decision-making. As part of the centralisation and concentration tendencies, I would like to examine the regulation of the special economic zones, where economic autonomy of the municipalities has been impacted.

Anna-Bettina KAISER, Professor for Public Law and General Jurisprudence, Humboldt University

ABSTRACT TBC



Türkmen Göksel holds a PhD in Economics (2009) from the University of Minnesota, USA

He received both BSc and MSc degrees in Economics from Ankara University in 2002 and 2004, respectively. He is a professor of economics at the Department of Politics and Economics, Ankara University, Turkey, where he serves as department chair. His main research interests are macroeconomics, international economics, mathematical modeling, programming languages, and electoral systems. He has published many papers in local and international peer-reviewed journals in these fields, and he also published books about electoral systems and applications of MATLAB (computer program) in social sciences. Besides Ankara University, he taught courses at the University of Minnesota, USA, and Boğaziçi University, Turkey.

ABSTRACT. The Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, which was first confirmed in Wuhan, Hubei province, China on December 8, 2019, has spread rapidly to many countries, including Europe. Consequently, Europe faces a challenging year in 2020, like much of the global economy. The European economy is projected to contract by around 6-10 percent in 2020 following Coronavirus's outbreak (COVID-19), with an uncertain rebound in 2021. This preliminary study focuses on the real gross domestic product growth rate forecasts in Europe and the European economy's possible recovery in 2021.