

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Colleagues and Friends,

I have the great pleasure to introduce Professor Michel Komajda, former President of the European Society of Cardiology – an international scientific society representing the cardiology professionals of 57 countries with the main goal to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease. As President, Professor Komajda made significant contribution to close the gap between Western and Eastern Europe, to get Central-Eastern European countries and institutions involved in milestone clinical trials and researches. He firmly believed that the country's representation at international scientific forums cannot depend on its economic influence.

Professor Komajda was Professor of Cardiology at the University Pierre et Marie Curie - Paris VI/Hospital Pitié Salpêtrière, Paris, France from 1990 to 2017. He was Head of the Department of Cardiology, Pitié Salpêtrière Hospital (Paris) and of the cardio-metabolic division (2006-2014). He is consultant in the department of cardiology Saint Joseph hospital in Paris.

He is a member of the research Unit INSERM UMRS 1166, of the Institut Hospitalo-Universitaire ICAN, of the Académie Nationale de Médecine and chair of the Board of the Fondation Coeur et Recherche since 2014.

His main fields of interest are pharmacology of heart failure, neuro-hormones in heart failure, genetics of dilated and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

He was President of the European Society of cardiology in 2010-2012. He occupied several key positions including Vice-President of the ESC Working Groups, Association and Councils (2006-2008), and Chairman of the ESC Programme Committee in 2005-2006 in the ESC. He was also Co-Chairman on the “Euro Heart Failure Survey I” and Member of the Executive Committee of “Euro Heart Failure Survey II” Programmes.

He occupied the positions of Treasurer and General Secretary of the French Society of Cardiology and was President of this Society in 2002-2003.

He is member of the Editorial Boards of European Heart Journal, European Journal of Heart Failure and Circulation.

Michel Komajda is the author of over 300 peer-reviewed papers, mostly in heart failure and has collaborated in several Steering, Executive Committees, Adjudication Committees or DSMBs of international trials on heart failure and cardiovascular diseases (CARMEN, COMET, I-PRESERVE, HEAAL, RECORD, CORONA, SHIFT, PARADIGM HF, PARAGON, PARALLEL, RELAX AHF 2, PARADISE, COLCOT).

Professor Komajda participated in and held lectures at the scientific conferences of the Hungarian Society of Cardiology several times. In 2011 the Hungarian Society of Cardiology inaugurated him as its Honorary Member. He has also had joint scientific research projects on heart failure with the physicians and researchers of the Heart and Vascular Center of the Semmelweis University. As a result of the common work two international publications were born. Based on the Parisian experience and with the help of Professor Komajda the Heart and Vascular Center of the Semmelweis University could introduce the ECMO program in Hungary, which fundamentally assisted the success of the national heart transplantation.

He organised about ten symposia on heart failure with the involvement of Hungarian profession, i.e. at the Annual Congress of the European Society of Cardiology, the Argentine Society of Cardiology, the Heart Failure Association and the Great Wall International Congress of Cardiology.

This was Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Colleagues and Friends, a short summary of the scientific and diplomatic activities of Michel Komajda. I am honoured to accept him today as Honorary Doctor of Semmelweis University, which is one of the highest recognitions of our 250-year institution.