

Tisztelt Rektor úr!

Tisztelt Egyetemi vezetés!

Kedves Végzős Hallgatók!

Dear Rector!

Dear University Leadership!

Dear Graduate Students!

"In order for Semmelweis University to be among the top 100 universities in the world and the top 5 healing universities in Europe, the National Assembly shall enact the following law in order to implement the necessary developments." - a quote from the preamble of the Act XX of 2021, according to which Semmelweis University will be the leading medical and health sciences university of our nation, Europe and even the world from 1 August 2021 in a renewed, more competitive model.

This is a historic moment, when a law is passed on the initiative of the leaders and governing bodies of the university, and a regulatory environment is created, which aims to set Hungarian universities, including Semmelweis University, which is also the first in international recognition, on a development path not seen since Klebelsberg.

We believe that the change of model, the related new financing and developments, the 21st development programme of Semmelweis University supported by the Government, will determinate the life of the University not only for the 21st century, but for the next quarter of a millennium. But the development would be worthless if it were only about buildings, better infrastructure and instruments. It is through you, dear students, and through your trainers, your teachers, your researchers, your clinicians, that development comes to life and acquires its true meaning. It is through the unity and cooperation of Semmelweis Citizens that the goal set by the law adopted in April this year can be achieved. This is based not only on the knowledge and diligence we have acquired, but also on the responsibility we have for our communities, our universities, our nation and the people entrusted to us in our daily lives, our patients. Remember that this is also the main aim of the 250th anniversary of the university's curricular reform, to have patient-centred doctors with a growing practical knowledge, ready to treat the patient and not just the disease.

You have demonstrated this commitment more than ever! In the past 250 years of university, there have been difficult times, trying situations, world wars, revolutions, the Spanish flu epidemic, but your generation and your parents' generation have never experienced a global crisis like the coronavirus pandemic. A doctor's chosen profession means that he or she never encounters easy situations, still these times of emergency are exceptional. The fact that we have managed to defeat the third wave of the epidemic is also owing to you, you were on the dam day and night! Apart from the clinicians, nurses and support staff of our medical schools, you were the ones who were involved in the fight against COVID in clinics and hospitals, helping the National Ambulance Service.

Here are some figures on this. Since last autumn, 62 thousand shifts have been worked by medical and health science students, of which Semmelweis University students have participated in more than one third of this number, 21678 shifts. Last autumn, 506 of the 1000 students working in COVID care were Semmelweis students, and this year, 2683 of the 9000 secondments involved in the third wave of the epidemic were Semmelweis students. Hungarian society will never forget this sacrifice! Thank you!

Dear young doctors! In conclusion, allow me to quote, perhaps a little informally but all the more poignantly, a thought of Franciscan Brother Csaba Böjte, written for young people at the last World Cup, which is perhaps even more relevant now. Watch the game and realize that you are living in a lying world, because in truth, all that is truly of value is for YOU to fight for! Like it or not, life does not give anyone, not even you, anything that really matters for free! You have to fight for knowledge, for a livelihood, for a real, pure relationship, for a baby that makes you a mother or a father, for everything that brings joy, peace and tranquility to your heart!

I wish you that, despite all these hardships, they may not discourage you, but strengthen you in your chosen profession.