

It is my pleasure to congratulate Professor Marie O'Toole for being awarded the prestigious Doctor Honoris Causa award of Semmelweis University. We have enjoyed a longstanding professional and personal relationship; furthermore, I am satisfied to see the successes of our professional collaboration.

Professionally Professor O'Toole played an essential and irreplaceable role in developing the world's first dual degree programme in Nursing between US and European partners: Nazareth College of Rochester, Laurea University of Helsinki, and Semmelweis University Faculty of Health Sciences. She has been personally dedicated to bring success to this project, and her inexhaustible effort has been a crucial element in finally making this world-leading programme function so smoothly and successfully. With her Hungarian and Finnish colleagues, Professor O'Toole started to develop this immense project from virtually nothing. She has created an outstanding training program to benefit more than 100 students and teachers from all three participating institutions, between 2007 and 2012. Indirect yet highly positive outcomes have also been a result of our collaboration, for example the development of international communication, the understanding and harmonization of US and EU curricula, the foundation of a dual degree diploma, and finally the

growth, and increased reputation, of Semmelweis University as an national and international institution.

Since then, Professor O'Toole has remained our most important professional connection with universities in the US, such as the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, and now Rutgers University. Her supportive activity towards Semmelweis University Faculty of Health Sciences highly contributes to our active presence, and developing relationships with Universities in the United States of America; a region our institution has been interested in, and will further increase in importance as we plan for the future.

After presenting Professor Marie O'Toole the distinguished Doctor Honoris Causa award, we want to express our gratitude for her outstanding work in supporting the professional, linguistic, and intercultural characteristics of our students and teachers. This is why I am elated to be working with Marie O'Toole yet again as we plan a new program based on globalization. I believe that the united efforts between Semmelweis University Faculty of Health Sciences and Rutgers University will make this program just as successful as our previous projects.

On a more personal note, I am thankful that you invited me to spend Thanksgiving with your family last year; it was a truly unforgettable night. I hope that our personal relationship continues to flourish alongside our professional one.