

Preface

Dear readers,

We are pleased to be able to bring you this special issue of *Physiological Research* intends to demonstrate the extensive impact of the current clinical and experimental research at our 5th Department of Internal Medicine, Comenius University, Faculty of Medicine and University Hospital Bratislava. This supplement is dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Faculty of Medicine at Comenius University in Bratislava. The faculty has a specific position amongst our Alma Mater. In September 2018, the Faculty of Medicine begun its 100th academic year and thus, it is one of the oldest out of the thirteen current faculties of the Comenius University, which was established by the law passed in June 1919 as the Czechoslovak State University in Bratislava. The 5th Department of Internal Medicine is youngest, but the biggest department for internal medicine. The department provides complete care of patients with internal diseases – special diagnostic and treatment cases up to management of polymorbid patients and emergent cases within intensive care, complete diagnostics, invasive and non-invasive treatment of GIT and liver diseases, complete care of patients with diabetes mellitus including gestation and specific complications, diagnostics and treatment of kidney diseases, intensive care of patients with homeostasis disorders, applying eliminative methods, treatment of patients with lipid metabolism disorders and nutritional disorders, diagnostics and treatment of vessel diseases, care of patients with cardiac problems, diagnostics and treatment of rheumatic diseases.

The inpatient department offers 86 beds and focuses on acute medicine for patient with various disorders and we have more than 3500 hospitalized patients per year. For serious ill patient we have an intensive care unit (ICU) with 8 beds (5 on coronary

and 3 on metabolic ICU). They are part of our Center for cardiostimulation, Diabetology centre and IBD centre. The outpatient department of the clinic provides healthcare in 17 specialist consultation offices (in endocrinology, diabetology, gastroenterology, hepatology, nephrology, rheumatology, osteology, immunology). A part of the department is also the biggest gastroenterology and hepatology unit.

Nevertheless, the important role of 5th Department of Internal Medicine is also a scientific work of our teachers and doctors. For the last 10 years we have more than 1800 publications. In 2017, the Clinical Research Unit in Internal Medicine was established, with the primary objective of providing comprehensive coverage of the scientific and research activities of the clinic with an emphasis on the preparation of scientific and clinical studies focused on endocrinology and diabetology, rheumatology and osteology, gastro-enterology and cardiology.

The articles in this Supplement represent the collection of reviews and original papers of clinical and experimental biomedical research within our department. Finally, 39 co-authors contributed to the nine articles emphasizes increased interdisciplinarity in our present biomedical research. They are all to be congratulated and thanked for their time, insight, and forbearance in what was a rapid and challenging editorial process.

We hope that these articles will be practical and relevant, and they will collectively help readers to get overview of our clinical and experimental research work in our internal medicine. Finally, I would like to wish all a lot of success and satisfaction in fulfilling the challenging tasks that lie ahead.

Editors

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