

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is my great pleasure to invite you to the 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting of the European Society for Clinical Investigations – ESCI'23 ASM, which will be held in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, on June 7-9, 2023. The conference will be conducted in the context of the philosophical statement *Investigatio Vitas Conservat* (Research Saves Lives).

Due to the Covid pandemic, this meeting was delayed by two years but, nonetheless or even more so, we believe that it will be successful, building on the face-to-face ASM that was held in 2022 in Bari, Italy, and bringing the ESCI ASM conferences to a new level.

Linked to latter statement, we are very happy to have the honour of hosting the Nobel Prize Winner for Medicine or Physiology for 2019, Prof. Gregg Semenza from John Hopkins University, who will deliver a keynote talk on hypoxia-inducible factor. Two more exquisite keynote talks will be given by outstanding scientists, Prof. Matthew Vander Heiden from MIT, USA, and Prof. Elizabeth Murchison from University of Cambridge, UK. We will also have the pleasure of listening to three plenary talks in the field of cardiology, diabetology and endocrinology. Thus, we are in for a real treat!

As is typical for ESCI Annual Scientific Meetings, we will run parallel symposia. Besides the 'usual suspects', epitomized by symposia on Mitochondrial Biology or Cardiovascular and Metabolic Diseases, we have added two new symposia, i.e. Reproduction Biology and Embryonal Pathology that fittingly widen the scope of the ASM.

A successful and memorable conference cannot do without social programme. We will have the traditional Welcome networking event on the first night of the ASM, and we will organize a banquet dinner in a recently renovated Villa Richter, which is a classicist building right next to Prague Castle with breathtaking views of the city and with its own winery. This St. Wenceslas winery is the oldest in the Czech Republic, reputedly dating back to the 10th century, and tasting the produce is possible. Besides treating taste buds, we will have the opportunity to show our physical fitness, as there will be live music for listening and, in particular, for dancing.

I cannot avoid mentioning that we are living in difficult times. And I feel I ought to mention that we should not forget, while having great time in Prague, our Ukrainian colleagues, who are as hungry for new discoveries in the field of clinical sciences as we all are, but sadly are, since February 24, 2022, deprived of the possibility to conduct research. We hope that this will change soon and they will again be in the position of contributing to furthering our knowledge.

To end up, let me, from the bottom of my heart, invite you to Prague, a city in the heart of Europe, that is deeply steeped in history. I am convinced that you will enjoy the time spent in my home town, both scientifically and socially.



Jiri Neuzil