



**GLOBSEC**  
IDEAS SHAPING THE WORLD

# **INTRODUCTION OF PRESENTERS AND PANNEL DISCUSSION EXPERTS**



### **Jakub Dvořáček**

Deputy Minister of Ministry of Health in Czech Republic

Jakub Dvořáček joined the Ministry of Health and took up the role of Deputy Minister for CZPRES in February 2022.

He has been the Executive Director of Association of the Innovative Pharmaceutical Industry since 2011. From 2009 to 2011 he served as Director of the Investment Division in CzechInvest, investment promotion agency at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, supporting the inflow of foreign direct investments to the Czech Republic and managing the network of foreign offices. Concurrently he served as an advisor to the minister at the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport.

Previously he held number of management positions in Caritas Czech Republic managing large health awareness programs, development and humanitarian projects around the world.

He graduated from Charles University (Prague) and later accomplished postgraduate program Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA). In 2020, he completed his Master of Laws studies (LL.M.).



### **Róbert Babela**

Vice-Rector, Slovak Medical University

Robert Babela is a Professor of Public Health and Vice-Chancellor responsible for research and development at the Slovak Medical University in Bratislava, Slovakia. He specializes in the field of health technology assessment and has been working in this area for over a decade. He holds several degrees, including an MSc in International Health Technology Assessment, Pricing and Reimbursement from the University of Sheffield in Sheffield, UK. He has authored and co-authored more than 180 publications both domestically and internationally. Additionally, he has gained practical skills through his more than twenty years of experience in various roles in the healthcare sector, where he currently continues to work.

In his recent role as State Secretary at the Ministry of Health, he led the team responsible for a major drug policy change during the last decade, which was approved by the Slovak parliament and has been in effect since August 1, 2022. Currently, he prioritizes scientific projects related to the burden of chronic diseases in Slovakia and evaluates the cost-effectiveness of selected oncology screenings for the National Cancer Institute.



### **Michal Štofko**

State Secretary, Ministry of Health of Slovak Republic

Michal studied at the WU Wien in Vienna and at the University of Economics in Bratislava, where he also obtained a PhD in Economic impact studies. He started his work at Sanigest International, where he dealt with payment mechanisms and provider network schemes.

Later he worked in several medical institutions and companies (General Health Insurance Company, Novartis Pharmaceutical Company and others). From 2016 to 2020, he worked as the Director of Strategy at the Institute of Health Policy. In addition, he was the chairman of the supervisory board of the Faculty Hospital in Nové Zámky and the vice-chairman of the

categorization commission of specialized medical material at the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic. Michal was also a member of the health committee at the OECD. He currently lectures for the Health Management Academy, collaborates with several health associations and is an advisor at the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family.

He was approved by new Slovak government and nominate as a state secretary of Ministry of health of Slovak republic on 3. November 2023



### **Radka Maxová**

Member of the European Parliament,  
Subcommittee on Public Health

Radka Maxová has been a Member of the Czech Parliament since 2013, and since 2019, she has been representing the interests of the Czech Republic in the European Parliament. At both the national and European levels, her primary areas of focus are social policy, the rights of individuals with disabilities, equal opportunities, and the protection of vulnerable groups.

She is also deeply engaged in health-related issues, including mental health, rare diseases, patient rights, and access to healthcare for all. Currently, she serves as the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) and is a substitute member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), as well as the Subcommittee on Public Health (SANT). She is also a member of the Parliamentary Disability Intergroup, the MEP Alliance for Mental Health and EU SHD Coalition, dedicated to structural heart diseases.

**prof. MUDr. Marek Svoboda, Ph.D.**

Board Member of the EU Cancer Mission,  
Director of Masaryk Oncology Institute

Has been working at the Masaryk Memorial Cancer Institute since 2004. Serving as a physician at the Department of Comprehensive Cancer Care and the Department of Cancer

Epidemiology and Genetics. Prof. Svoboda became the MMCI General Director in 2019; before that, he was acting for nine years as the Director for Science, Research and Education.

In the years 2001-2002 he was working at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, then, at the Faculty Hospital in Brno.

In his clinical practice, prof. Svoboda specializes mainly in cancer of breast, colon and rectum, as well as in cancer genetics and prevention. He is also very active in cancer research; he was the leading investigator of nine grant projects and co-researcher of another eight projects. He has contributed to more than 100 publications in journals with an impact factor, which have over 3,000 citations (h-index 32). His scientific work has been awarded three times with the Minister of Health Award for Medical Research and Development. In addition, he acts as a teacher at the Medical Faculty of Masaryk University.

Prof. Svoboda is a member of the committee of Czech Medical Association of J. E. Purkyně and the Accreditation committee of the Organization of European Oncologic Institutes (OECI). He is active in Jan Pivečka Foundation, which helps to develop young talents at his home Wallachia. His motto in life is: "Never give up".





**Soňa Čierniková**

Research and Education Project Coordinator  
at National Oncology Institute, Slovak Republic

Sona Ciernikova is a Research and Education Project Coordinator at the National Oncology Institute (NOI) and also serves as a cancer research scientist at the Biomedical Research Center of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, focusing mainly on translational cancer research.

She has authored and co-authored more than 70 international and national publications and book chapters and holds the position of Secretary of the NOI Scientific Council. She participates in projects with the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), and the Organization of European Cancer Institutes (OECI), and collaborates with the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic in initiatives supporting cancer prevention in Slovakia.

Moreover, she has been a longtime member of the Board of the Slovak Cancer Research Foundation to support and promote cancer research in Slovakia.

At the EU level, she is a member of the Cancer Mission Working Group under the Strategic Configuration of the Horizon Europe Programme Committee and also a member of the Sub-group on Cancer under the Expert Group on Public Health (PHEG). She actively participates in several EU projects aiming to fulfill the goals of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. She is a co-coordinator of the Slovakia team for the CraNE – JA, which focuses on creating a European network of comprehensive cancer centers. She also participates in the CCI4EU project to reduce inequalities in cancer research, innovation, and quality care within EU countries and acts as the main coordinator for Slovakia for the EU project ECHoS, supporting the implementation of the Cancer Mission activities in all Member States and Associated Countries through the establishing of National Cancer Mission Hubs operating at national, regional, and local levels.



**Martin Smatana**

Associate Fellow, Health Stream, GLOBSEC

Martin Smatana studied at Imperial College, London, where he graduated in healthcare management. He worked in England as an analyst for NHS and as a hospital inspector in the Central Bohemian Region of Czechia. During 2016 to 2020, he was head of the Health Policy Institute of the Slovak ministry of health. Martin has since worked as a consultant for several organisations, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Martin also cooperates with the Slovak Association for the Protection of Patient's Rights, is chairman of the supervisory board of the General Health Insurance Fund in Slovakia and lectures on health economics at the Slovak medical university. He is the author of several publications and a member of several working groups of the European Commission and the OECD.



**Prof Dr Roman Hájek**

Head of Department of Hematooncology,  
the University Hospital of Ostrava

Dr. Hajek is Professor of Oncology, Head of Department of Haemato-Oncology at the University Hospital Ostrava and School of Medicine University Ostrava and Head of Babak Myeloma Research Group of MU Brno in Czech Republic. After qualifying in medicine in 1988 from J.E. Purkyne University Brno, Dr. Hajek completed degrees in Internal Medicine, Medical Oncology and Hematology & Transfusiology and received a PhD in 1995. Dr Hajek was a founder member of the Czech Myeloma Group and an active chairman of the Czech Myeloma Group. He is also the founder of Amyloidosis Diagnostic and Treatment Center in Ostrava. He is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of International Myeloma Foundation. Dr. Hajek was awarded for my contribution to the development of hematology by the Czech Society of Hematology, the Slovak Society of Hematology and the Polish Society of Hematology. He is the author or co-author of more than 500 scientific articles in domestic and foreign journals, more than 10 pedagogical publications (textbooks, scripts) and the book Multiple Myeloma – A Quick Reflection on the Fast Progress.



**Prof dr Jelena Bila, MD, PhD**

Head of the Ward for Multiple Myeloma at the Clinic of Hematology, University Clinical Center of Serbia, Chair of Serbian Myeloma Group, General Secretary of the Balkan Myeloma Study Group

Professor Dr Jelena Bila, Chair of the Serbian Myeloma Study Group, is employed at the Clinic of Hematology, University Clinical Center of Serbia, as Head of the Ward for multiple myeloma and related plasma cell disorders since 2010. Her scientific work in the field of plasma cell dyscrasia has been dated since 2004, with a 12 months fellowship in the team of Professor Dr Hartmut Goldschmidt, University Clinic in Heidelberg, Germany, working on her PhD thesis „Prognostic significance of interphase cytogenetics (FISH) and immunohistology in myeloma patients”. On her return to the University of Belgrade, in 2005, Professor Bila incorporated FISH in prognostic profiling of myeloma patients and established the concept of the high-dose therapy and autologous stem cell transplantation as a routine method of treatment, followed in 2008, by foundation of the Serbian Myeloma Study Group and national guidelines for the diagnostics and treatment of multiple myeloma, which are applied and annually updated in all of the 24 hematological centers in Serbia. Her scientific work in the field of multiple myeloma resulted with more than 200 publications and presentations, followed with participation in clinical studies, and European Myeloma Network (EMN) clinical trials regarding new treatment modalities. Since 2018, Professor Bila is heading the Chair of specialization studies in Medical Oncology, at the Medical Faculty, University of Belgrade. She is a member of the Advisory Board of the Serbian Association of myeloma patients, and a participating member of Myeloma Euronet. Following the initiative of Professor dr Meletios A. Dimopoulos in 2017, Professor Bila is one of the founders and elected General Secretary of Balkan Myeloma Study Group consisting of all of the Balkan and Adriatic region countries.





**Dr Gábor Mikala MD, PhD**

Head of Division, Department of Hematology and Stem Cell Transplantation, South Pest Central Hospital - National Institute for Hematology and Infectious Diseases, Budapest, Hungary

Gábor Mikala is Division Head for Myeloma and Lymphoma Therapy at the Department of Hematology and Stem Cell Transplantation at the South-Pest Central Hospital, National Institute of Hematology and Infectious Diseases, Budapest, Hungary. He received his medical degree at Semmelweis University, Budapest. Postdoctoral research was carried out at the University of Cincinnati, Institute of Molecular Pharmacology and Biophysics. Awarded by PhD in Molecular Physiology by Semmelweis University in 1999. He is a Professor of Physiology and Cell Biology since 2007.

His main interests are multiple myeloma and Waldenström's disease since 1999. He is an author and co-author of several papers on the field of multiple myeloma, including the Hungarian treatment guidelines. He represents Hungary at the International Myeloma Working Group.

**Kate Morgan**

Co-Chief Executive Officer (CEO),  
Myeloma Patient Europe

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Government from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences and a Master's degree in International and European Politics from the University of Edinburgh. She also holds a Diploma in Public Relations from the Chartered Institute for Public Relations. Her main area of interest is health policy, specifically focusing on policies affecting drug development and access in European countries. Kate previously worked for eight years in the Policy Team at Myeloma UK, where she was involved in influencing a range of policy and reimbursement decisions affecting myeloma patients' access to good quality care and effective new drugs. She was involved in several patient and public advisory panels in the UK healthcare system, including for the Scottish Medicines Consortium, the drug approval body in Scotland. She has been involved in a wide range of patient organisation networks, both nationally and internationally.







**Gerard Dunleavy, PhD**

Senior Consultant, Health Policy  
& Insights Economist Impact

Gerard is a Senior Consultant with Economist Impact's Health Policy team. He manages global engagements with international clients in the healthcare sector, from conceptualising to delivering and executing customised research projects. He manages multidisciplinary teams, conducting quantitative and qualitative analyses across various disease areas and health policies.

Prior to joining Economist Impact, Gerard worked in academic settings specialising in evidence-based synthesis and epidemiological studies. He holds a PhD in Public Health and Epidemiology and a Masters degree in Health Education and Promotion, both from Maastricht University.



**Rob Cook**

Senior Principal, Economist Impact

Rob is a Senior Principal with Economist Impact's health policy practice. Based in London, he is responsible for the global unit's independent scientific outputs including policy analysis. In partnership with a range of clients to drive positive change across health systems.

Rob's background is in clinical medicine and public health, he has a particular interest in prevention and has developed clinical guidelines and integrated care pathways for cardiovascular disease in the UK and NZ.



**Mira Armour**

Caregiver and Patient Advocate, CEO MijelomCRO

Mira Armour is a co-founder and Executive Director of Mijelom CRO. Moved by personal experience of supporting her mother with myeloma, this experience inspired the founding of MijelomCRO in Croatia in 2011, a charity that supports a great number of patients and carers in Croatia and in the region. There was no easily accessible patient friendly information on myeloma in the Croatian language in 2000. Living and working in the UK at the time of her mother's diagnosis in 2000, Mira had first hand experience of two health care systems, what support and treatment was available and how the place where you live impacts outcomes.

Mira has been active in Croatian, CEE, European and international blood cancer and patient advocate communities since 2006, has been a member of numerous advisory boards, a board member of MPE, a Steering Committee member of IMF GMAN, a working group member on the Croatian National Strategic Cancer Control Plan 2020-2030, and a Steering Committee member for the INSIGHT MM real-world study. Mira's work is focused on early diagnosis, access, pricing and reimbursement mechanisms and access to clinical trials with an emphasis on lower and middle income SEE countries. Mira holds a B.Sc. degree in Economics.