

Opening words



Dear colleagues,
dear friends,

First and foremost, allow me to sincerely thank you for your collaboration this year – both in advancing the overarching agenda of the **Czech Health Research Council (AZV ČR)** and in numerous instances beyond our usual activities. In our efforts to enhance communication and foster „our community“, we have resolved to issue a newsletter approximately once every quarter to keep you aware of the significant events within the AZV ČR and the current

matters under discussion. We would be delighted if you could utilize this platform to share your ideas, providing valuable feedback. I am pleased to note that this year, alongside the revitalization of our visual identity, we have implemented several other changes – changes I dare say are beneficial. Key among these are revisions to the tender documentation and the introduction of an innovative evaluation process in „VES 2024“. Additionally, we have embarked on a new initiative aimed at involving Czech scientists in European partnerships within the realm of health, a move that could bolster the Czech Republic’s competitiveness in international research endeavors. Further details on these and other intriguing developments can be found in the subsequent sections.

Wishing you all a peaceful holiday season filled with good health, vitality, and success in the forthcoming – anniversary – year.

*Looking forward to our ongoing collaboration,
Ondřej Slabý*

Changes to the VES 2024 Tender Documentation

In the context of the newly announced tender „VES 2024“, we presented the most important changes in the Tender Documentation, practical information on the submission of the project proposal to the ISVP, and also new information on the evaluation process, which was thoroughly discussed and approved at the level of the AZV ČR Scientific Board, the AZV ČR Board, and the Scientific Board of the

Minister of Health. The seminars were attended by about 300 grant officers or project proponents and more than 120 members of our expert panels. Presentations with the most important information are available on our website. Thanks again to all interested parties for their participation, stimulating questions and rich discussion!

[Learn more](#)

The Minister of Health Award for Medical Research and Development

In early October, AZV ČR hosted a conference at which the research teams presented the top-ranked projects completed in 2022 to nearly seventy participants. All eighteen projects, from a variety of medical fields, produced outstanding results, many of which had a direct impact on healthcare. The members of the AZV ČR Board and the AZV ČR Scientific Board had the very difficult task of selecting the ten highest quality projects in a secret ballot, which they then recommended to the Minister of Health for awards. The Minister of Health Award for Health Research and Development was finally awarded on December 12, 2023 to David Cibula (First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University), Daniel Růžek (Veterinary Research Institute), Pavel Krejčí (FNUSA), Jan Rusz (First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University) and Pavel Kršek (Second Faculty of Medicine, Charles University). Honorary mentions from the hands of the Minister were received by Ivo Rudolf (Institute of Vertebrate Biology of the CAS), Stanislav Kmoch (First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University), Andrea Burgerová (First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University), Jan Lebl (Second Faculty of Medicine, Charles University) and Štěpánka Průhová (Second Faculty of Medicine, Charles University). We congratulate all the awarded!



[Learn more](#)

[and more](#)

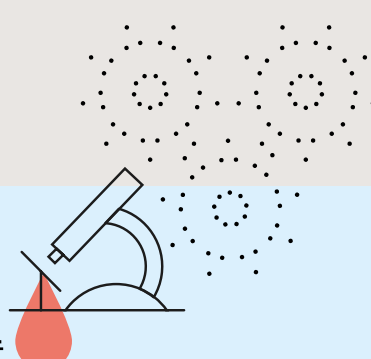
Will You Participate in the European Partnerships in Healthcare?

On behalf of the Ministry of Health, AZV ČR is organising the agenda for the involvement of Czech scientists in the European Partnerships for Healthcare from September 2023. Participation in these partnerships represents a unique opportunity for the Czech Republic to collaborate in research, development and innovation activities at a pan-European level. This will allow to contribute not only to solving societal problems, but also to raising the level of Czech R&D

through international and inter-sectoral cooperation. If you are interested in finding out more about the conditions and rules for joining these partnerships, as well as for participating in the announced international calls, please contact Monika Kocmanová, Coordinator of the European Partnerships for Healthcare.

[Learn more](#)

Scientists’ Night Uncovered the Secrets of Medical Research



For the first time in its history, AZV ČR joined the awareness-raising festival Scientists’ Night 2023, which took place across the Czech Republic – this time on the theme of Mystery! Through the online program you could unravel the mystery of medical research with us. From the AZV ČR Chair Ondřej Slabý, you could learn in a short video, among other things, how

many scientists actually work in the Czech Republic’s biomedical research, or what to do to ensure healthcare research can keep its funding. If you missed this year’s Scientists’ Night or you want to revisit it, you can go to watch the video on our YouTube channel!

[Learn more](#)

Video with Minister Válek the Most Successful on Instagram

Our most popular post of 2023 on Instagram was the post from our conference „Top-rated projects completed in 2022“, which featured, among others, Minister of Health Vlastimil Válek. The video of the Minister talking about how he perceives the development of the AZV ČR has been viewed 2,181 times.

Interim and Final Reports January Reminder

Project Investigators are reminded that the deadline for submission of Interim Reports for ongoing projects is January 22, 2024, and for submission of Final Reports of completed projects is January 31, 2024. Thank you for your timely cooperation.

2024 Will See AZV ČR’s 10th Year Anniversary

That’s right! Ten years ago, specifically in April 2014, the Czech Health Research Council was founded by the Ministry of Health. We are looking forward to celebrating this milestone with you in 2024!