



Prof. MUDr. Peter Šimko, PhD.

rektor

Slovenská zdravotnícka univerzita

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Slovenská Republika

Dear Rektor Šimko,

Greetings! Now that I am nearing the end of my Fulbright Scholar program here at the Slovak Medical University, I wish to send you and your colleagues my sincerest appreciation for your many kindnesses – both professionally and personally.

When I began searching for Fulbright opportunities, I had several invitations from other nations and sponsors. I chose SZU because of the publications in bioethics and medical ethics written by your faculty, but especially by Dr. Jozef Glasa. The journal *Medicínska etika & Bioetika – Medical Ethics & Bioethics*, edited at the SZU's Health Care Ethics Institute, will celebrate 30 years of publications very soon in 2024 and we in the United States and the EU recognize the important contributions of many preeminent bioethicists published here including the much-admired Daniel Callahan.

You and your colleagues have been so very welcoming – a fact that I appreciate enormously. I have already reported back to the Slovak Fulbright Commission the wonderful and unique opportunities here, including addressing the EU Committee on PhD programs in Public Health and the Social

Sciences (thanks to Dr. Čížnar). Additional presentations to the faculty and students (beautifully arranged by Dr. Glasa and Dr. Krčméryová) were warmly received and allowed me a cultural and intellectual exchange so very important to Fulbright and mutual understanding.

I am happy to report that Dr. Glasa and I should finish our common scholarly text (a monograph) in biomedical ethics this summer in time to send out for review by this fall, 2022 (frankly, he could use a secretary and some web help to get the Journal searchable again in PubMed – this is important for the international reputation of SZU). An additional student's Bioethics Guide (SZU texts), an essay in the Hastings Center Forum, and another manuscript in process should also happen this year thanks to the kind hosting of you and your colleagues. The teaching to the international medical students was a delight.

I thank you and your colleagues for your warm welcome and generous hosting. I will continue my collaboration with Dr. Glasa, and I see great potential for additional collaborations in the future. I am especially happy to see the important intersection here at SZU between clinical pharmacology and bioethics, since so very many domestic and international human research ethics protocols and trials must be evaluated not only on the basis of the drug/medicine development, but also the clinical, bioethical, and research ethics perspective. This encouraged me to complete the EUREC – TRREE – Research Ethics Committee training modules while here, including Good Clinical Practice.

We have a number of prestigious biomedical ethics programs (as well as Slovak communities) in the United States, and I will begin networking with them to see what projects may interest us/them in Central and Eastern Europe. I could easily imagine a graduate interdisciplinary program in biomedical ethics at SZU, as these graduates make important contributions to the various ethics committees throughout nations.

Finally, if there is anything that I might do for you and the Slovak Medical University in the future – particularly in the field of biomedical ethics – please do not hesitate to contact me.

With kindest regards and appreciation,

Prof. Michael J. Murphy, PhD, m. p.

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