



British Embassy
Bratislava

Building a more innovative and resilient post-pandemic healthcare

Healthcare Roundtable

9 September 2021

9.00 – 14.00 CET

Ambassador's Residence, Pažického 1, Bratislava

The COVID-19 pandemic has shone a spotlight on the importance of innovation in healthcare. Countries have been forced to respond in many new and innovative ways to a disease threat few had experience of, and against which we had no immunity, treatments or vaccines. That we now have effective treatments and vaccines saving hundreds of thousands of lives worldwide is a testament to the role of science and innovation. But this has also shown the significance of international cooperation to share experience and insights across borders.

As we look to the future, Her Majesty's Ambassador to Slovakia, Mr Nigel Baker, is pleased to host a roundtable on innovative healthcare to bring together Slovak and British experts from both the public and private sectors and academia to discuss how to embed this approach for the long term.

Programme

9:00 – 9.15 Opening Remarks

Nigel Baker, Her Majesty's Ambassador to Slovakia.

Jana Ježíková, State Secretary for the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic.

9:15 – 10:15 Policies that Attract Innovation

The Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic plans to introduce a 'revolution in innovative medicine' this autumn. The creation of an independent system to assess the balance of economic impact and



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medical benefit of new medicines aims to improve patient access to newer and more effective medicines. This would be the most significant change in the last decade. By improving access to new and innovative medicines, patient outcomes should also improve.

At present, Slovakia has the highest number of deaths per capita caused by cancer in the EU. Analysts suggest this is caused mainly by lack of registered innovative medicines and lengthy approval processes. In order to create long-lasting change that would bring real progress, a discussion among stakeholders is crucial.

The UK has adopted a similar approach since 1999, could the UK's experience present useful insights for Slovakia?

Speakers (to open the panel with a 5-7 minute opening presentation / speech):

- **Gabriela Urbanová**, Director of departments for EU and International affairs at the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic
- **Daniel O'Connor**, Expert Medical Assessor at the MHRA (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency)
- **Michal Štofko**, Executive Director at the AZPSR (Združenie zdravotných poisťovní SR)
- **Iveta Pálešová**, Executive Director at the AIFP (Asociácia inovatívneho farmaceutického priemyslu)

10:30 – 11:30 Building a New Healthcare and Health-Tech Ecosystems

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the importance of academia, industry and healthcare providers working in partnership to develop new vaccines and treatments. Academia provides the intellectual expertise, industry benefits from greater investment in research and development and healthcare providers benefit from better treatments. Ultimately, this results in patients with improved outcomes, better life expectancy and quality of life. It is in everyone's interest to embed this cooperative approach for the long term. Plans are already being put in place to develop a cancer research hub in Slovakia.

This session will hear more about plans in Slovakia and about what insights can be drawn from the UK's life sciences ecosystem.

Speakers (to open the panel with a 5-7 minute opening presentation / speech):

- **Professor Mark Lawler**, Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Digital Health at Queen's University Belfast
- **Kuuno Vaher**, Cluster Country Director, Central Europe at AstraZeneca
- **Natalie de Lima**, Communications & Government Affairs Director at GlaxoSmithKline



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11.45 – 12:45 Digital Solutions for Slovakia's Healthcare

Telemedicine, AI-enabled medical devices and blockchain electronic health records are just a few examples of digital transformation in healthcare. The rapid migration to digital technologies driven by the pandemic will continue into the recovery. Continued innovation will also require the continued adoption of the necessary legislation to keep up. The EU Recovery and Resilience Plan offers an opportunity to implement some of these emerging technologies and adapt to the new challenges caused by the pandemic.

How can Slovakia best grasp this chance for building a more resilient and innovative healthcare for its citizens?

Speakers (to open the panel with a 5-7 minute opening presentation / speech):

- **Pavol Capek**, General Director at NCZI (Národné centrum zdravotníckych informácií)
- **Masood Ahmed**, Chief Medical Officer & CCIO at the NHS Black Country & West Birmingham CCG
- **Hassan Chaudhury**, Global Digital Health Specialist at the DIT (Department for International Trade)
- **Martin Šlégl**, General Manager, Czech Republic and Slovakia at IQVIA

12:45 – 14.00 Lunch & Networking

Audience (to participate within the panels, though without a 5-7 opening presentation / speech):

- **Elena Marušáková**, Vice President at AOPP (Association for Protecting the Patients' Rights)
 - + **Dominik Tomek**, Vice President
- **Petra Benczyová**, PR Manager at Liga Proti Rakovine (League Against Cancer)
 - + **Eva Kováčová**, Executive Director
- **Lukáš Palaj**, Director of the Digitalisation and AI department at the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic
- **Jarmila Dolečková**, Health Care Affairs Director CZ&SK at AstraZeneca
- **Peter Klčo**, Financial Director, Czech Republic and Slovakia at IQVIA