

17 February 2013

St. Anne's University Hospital  
Director of the Hospital and Chairman of the ICRC Supervisory Board  
Roman Kraus, MUDr. MBA  
Pekarska 53  
656 91 Brno

**Subject: An Open Letter from the ICRC Supervisory Board Members**

Dear Dr. Kraus,

As members of the Supervisory Board we are deeply concerned about the proposed changes in the leadership of the ICRC project recommended by the Search Committee organized by the Ministry of Education Youth and Sports. According to the information made available to us, the Committee interviewed two candidates, Dr. Tomas Kara and Dr. Gorazd Stokin, and surprisingly recommended Dr. Gorazd Stokin as the *only* qualified candidate for the position of the ICRC Chair. This single recommendation was made even though the Committee's assignment was to identify those *suitable* candidates, as opposed to naming a single candidate.

After spending considerable time and effort reviewing the Search Committee decision to recommend Dr. Gorazd Stokin as the only suitable candidate, we came to the conclusion that the Committee recommended a less experienced and less qualified person than the current Chair, Dr. Tomas Kara. In our assessment, Dr Gorazd Stokin did not disclose any previous experience or ability in establishing and managing a research center of the magnitude of ICRC and his capability to further strengthen and maintain national and international collaborations exploring cutting edge science with the key partners of the project is unknown. Indeed, the highly critical nature of his presentation, targeting undisputable achievements of ICRC with the use of inaccurate information, is wholly inconsistent with the spirit of transparency and collegiality which has helped take the ICRC to its current level of accomplishment and international visibility.

Dr. Tomas Kara is the co-author and visionary of the ICRC project, respected international expert, and a leader with a proven track record of excellence in the implementation of the ICRC concept. He took the ICRC from concept to reality, inspired and brought together key partners, and assembled individual research teams. There is little doubt that without Dr. Kara there would be no ICRC. We strongly believe that replacement of Dr. Kara should be considered only if a new candidate can bring significantly higher value through his/her experience in establishing and managing research centers of similar size and importance, possesses access to additional financing, and excel in the medical field. From this perspective we fear that the decision of the

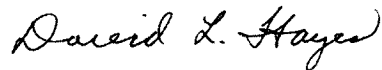
Committee to recommend Dr. Stokin, and in fact to specifically not recommend Dr. Kara, is inexplicable, and presents an unjustified risk and a potential hazard for the project, in meeting its monitoring indicators and for its future.

**Therefore, in line with the Supervisory Board Statute and the executive power entrusted in us, we request that the Supervisory Board vote on the following conclusion and recommendation, which will become a part of the Supervisory Board Resolution:**

- 1. The Board disapproves replacement of the current ICRC Chair by Dr. Gorazd Stokin. Dr. Stokin's experience and qualification relevant to the project appear to be lower than those of the existing Chair Dr. Kara. The change would represent a significant and unjustified risk for the success and output of the project, especially with regard to the monitoring criteria.**
- 2. The Board recommends to the Director of the St. Anne's hospital to keep the current Chair Dr. Tomas Kara, and use his veto power to reject Dr. Gorazd Stokin as the only recommended candidate by the Search Committee.**

Any change in the ICRC Chair position should be implemented after the next ICRC Supervisory Board meeting.

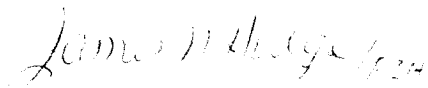
Sincerely,



David Hayes, M.D.  
Medical Director, Affiliated Practice Network  
Immediate Past Chair, Division of Cardiovascular Division



Santhi S. Vege, M.D., FACG, FACP  
Director, Pancreas Interest Group,  
Professor of Medicine & Consultant in Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology



James M. Hodge III  
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