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## Minutes of the IOCB Board Meeting No. 2/2021 on February 12, 2021

Present: Ullrich Jahn, Pavel Jungwirth, Pavlína Maloy Řezáčová, Radim Nencka, Radek Pohl, Pavel Šácha, Petr Slavíček, Tomáš Obšil, Petr Svoboda

Guests: Zdeněk Hostomský, Zdeněk Havlas, Jana Pokorná, Jan Konvalinka, Martin Matoušek

Secretary: Irena Valterová

The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved.

1. *IOCB and the planned Virology Institute/Center.* Zdeněk Havlas (vice-chairman of CAS and member of its Academic Board) and Jan Konvalinka (a member of RVVI - Governmental Board for Research and Development) provided information on the latest development with the establishment of a new virology center, which is envisaged to be founded and operated from funds from the EU-administered National Rescue Fund and IOCB co-financing. Eva Zažímalová (Chair of CAS) supports the idea of building a new virology institute and, since the government does not allocate infrastructure money for the center, asked IOCB to contribute substantially to finance the infrastructure. RVVI supports in contrast assembling a consortium aimed at funding new medicinal research that would be divided into four branches and financed by the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility Funds. One of the branches would be devoted to research in virology. Both possibilities are open at the moment.

The Board is critical about building a new institute and asks for developing a clear scientific vision and goals of such a center to avoid founding another regular institute of CAS. Moreover, this would take too much time to establish to fit into the timelines and conditions of the EU Fund, which is limited to the next few years. If such a center would be funded it must be an outstanding institution with the best scientists and best projects in the field of virology. If IOCB was to co-finance the construction of the center, IOCB should have a leading role in the scientific and organizational direction of the center (tentative name "A. Holý National Centre of Virology"). The Board rather supports the idea of the RVVI of a science-driven assembly of a consortium. This should help to start collaborative projects to drive virology research from the science side and if this materializes, take the lead in developing the infrastructure around the science that emerges.

Z. Havlas and J. Konvalinka will keep the Board informed on further development and negotiations at CAS and RVVI.

2. *IOCB Budget and information on changes.* At request of the Board, the director gave a presentation on the IOCB budget and explained the real estate strategy. Buying real estate is acknowledged as one of the ways to diversify the IOCB income. Such purchase represents,

however, a significant change in the IOCB budget, which the IOCB Board has to be consulted about beforehand and approve according to the law. Therefore, the Board has to request all information on substantial budget changes and real estate purchases before contracts are signed, which did not happen in the case of the purchase of the Thunovska guest house. The director explained that this omission was not intentional. The Board clearly states that it supports the real estate development of the institute as well as giving excellent conditions such as accommodation to foreign employees and guests, but this must be properly substantiated before the budgeting process.

Intentions of IOCB to purchase real estate in the near future:

- a) Land in Krč next to the campus of institutes of ASCR; this land might host three new institutes/research centers: The envisaged Institute of Translational Research, MediAim Consortium (consisting of a consortium from IOCB, the Institute of Physiology CAS and IKEM), and potentially the envisaged Virology Center (*vide supra*). However, the price is growing and the Prague Land Development plan is at the moment not approved.
  - b) Training center in Hojsova Stráž, Šumava mountains.
3. *IOCB Budget 2021*. The real estate acquisitions will be added as an extra chapter to the budget. The IOCB Board approved all investment requests for the purchase of equipment recommended by the Methodology Board. Since prices for the same items vary considerably, the IOCB Board requests at the next stage to pool them if possible and to receive larger discounts from producers/distributors.

The next meeting of the IOCB Board will take place on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 9 AM.

February 19, 2021