



## **1st Progress Review Conference of the Universities participating in the “Excellence Initiative – Research University” programme**

### **PRE-EVENT QUESTIONNAIRE**

#### **Uniwersytet Medyczny im. Karola Marcinkowskiego w Poznaniu / Poznan University of Medical Sciences**

**1) Which of your university’s original objectives (when applying for a 10% increase in funding) have been chosen to retain having received a lower funding level? How is progress being reviewed?**

1. Systematic development of Poznan University of Medical Sciences (PUMS) research infrastructure related to three priority research areas (as indicated in the application) - purchase of research equipment (after internal PUMS competition) to seven university departments for the amount of PLN 1.5 million in June-July of 2020.
2. Supporting the development of young scientists - transferring in May of 2020 PLN 1 million to 6 young PUMS employees (resulting also from internal competition), who (by the end of 2022) are to carry out pilot studies, publish scientific papers and obtain the necessary experience to submit an application in the ERC Starting Grant.
3. Entering of PUMS in the beginning of 2020 into European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing.

The financial resources granted by PUMS to its departments and young researchers are settled through regular reporting aimed at verifying the planned results.

**2) Which measures have been added, deleted or modified following the recommendation of the reviewers? What changes to university strategy and policy have been made in the light of evaluation and the outcome of the funding competition?**

The reviewers opinion regarding Poznan University of Medical Sciences was extremely brief and general. It is composed of only 6 sentences. One of them states: "The panel would encourage the university to continue its internal development towards improving quality and ultimately becoming a research university, in this process it may become beneficial to form partnerships or strategic alliances with other universities. "

Refer to the above, it was decided to:

1. Make a complete separation of science and didactics within individual PUMS faculties (i.e. electing three discipline's leaders (called chancellors) who will be responsible for evaluation of science in 2022, as well as development and implementation of a new procedure for awarding academic degrees).
2. Introduction of a novel prospective system for the evaluation of PUMS researchers and academic teachers (implementation of the mandatory requirement to publish at least two IF papers every two years, in which the assessed person is the first, second or last author).
3. Redefining the term of "public responsibility of science" - submitting application to EU for HR Excellence in Research distinction.
4. Introducing PUMS to international partnerships (i.e. European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing).
5. Developing on-line control over PUMS researchers and academic teachers based on the implementation of modern applications monitoring employee activity ("real-time publishing").

**3) Did the university change/reduce the Priority Research Areas (POBs)? What is the scope of such change?**

University did not change/reduce the Priority Research Areas as it was not recommended by reviewers. Still, innovative pharmaceutical technologies, active and healthy aging as well as metabolic programming are in scope of PUMS research activity.

However, considering the information provided by the absolute winner - University of Medical Sciences in Gdansk, the above-mentioned activities (related to the priority research areas) were first of all focused on primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular diseases and cancer.

**4) What concrete measures has the university taken to encourage cutting edge research? What evidence can you provide of continuing promotion of research excellence at the highest levels of the university? Has this been achieved using alternative sources of funding, apart from the 2% subvention increase?**

As it was mentioned earlier, the total of 2% of the subsidy was allocated to the development of research infrastructure and increasing the scientific potential of PUMS.

The modernization of research equipment was aimed at extending the area of research work performed by PUMS scientists in order to increase the possibility of publishing research results in journals that were previously unavailable to our employees.

Six young scientists have also received unprecedented funds (in the amount of PLN 1,000,000), which they can allocate for any project aiming to obtain the ERC Starting Grant. It is a special expression of trust in young employees who are to be the driving force of PUMS in the near future.

The remaining PLN 1 million (resulting from the increase in the subsidy) was allocated to publication fees in research papers with a Ministry of Science score higher than or equal to 100 points.

Moreover, five young scientists received funding from the Ministry of Science under the Implementation Doctorates program, two young scientists received funding in the form of a scholarship to carry out research projects under the "Diamond Grant" competition announced by the Ministry of Science. As part of the Ministry of Science's task regarding science dissemination activities, we obtained funds for further digitization of library resources, allowing for safe use of scientific publications.

**5) What progress has been made regarding establishment of a federation or merging with other institutions from the region, particularly in case of universities which received relevant recommendations?**

At the last board meeting of PUMS Senate (before present summer holiday), a resolution was adopted to start work to create a federation between Adam Mickiewicz University and PUMS (one of IDUB winner). The resolution allows the federation process to be completed by the end of 2023.

**6) What steps is your university taking in order to increase the likelihood of enhanced levels of funding being secured in future rounds of the IDUB programme?**

The steps taken can be summarized in the following points:

1. All research projects (developed by PUMS employees) which are going to be sent to external institutions are subject to obligatory internal (PUMS) reviews.
2. We are trying to prepare as many research projects as possible in partnerships and consortia (including foreign).
3. A special internal web application has been prepared that systematically tracks the publication activity of PUMS employees. It gives the possibility of earlier (than once every four years) reacting to the decline in scientific activity by PUM researchers.
4. New rules for periodic scientific evaluation (incl. paths of scientific development) of PUMS employees were developed and adopted in 2020.
5. An application to award HR Excellence in Research was submitted to EU.

6. Three top PUMS scientists (called chancellors of disciplines) have been appointed to supervise the scientific development of employees and the impact of PUMS disciplines (medical sciences, health sciences and pharmaceutical sciences).
7. The University Science Council was established, which was empowered to set trends in the scientific development of PUMS employees.

**7) The worldwide impact of measures and limitations introduced as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic should be taken into account in the implementation planning, and institutions should be driven by the will to maintain strategic development as planned. The good use of digital means of communication has a crucial role to play. Thus, universities should see to it that they are up to this challenge. What actions have been taken by your university in order to reduce the negative impact of the pandemic on the implementation of the university development strategy?**

COVID-19 pandemic has changed in PUMS both student teaching and the way research is conducted. The number (percentage) of compulsory e-learning activities for students has been increased. At present, the number of e-learning lectures must not be less than 10%, and the percentage of labs must be higher than 5%. Common internet tools for conducting on-line lectures and seminars (i.e. MS Teams, Skype, Zoom etc.) were also introduced.

Paradoxically, COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an increased amount of time for research. PUMS employees focused then not only on studying the biology of SARS-CoV-2, but also started working on anti-SARS vaccine (prof. Mackiewicz and his team). They tried also to assess the impact of the pandemic on social behavior (Rzymiski P, Nowicki M - publication in Science; <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/367/6484/1313.1/tab-article-info>).

The university's coronavirus laboratory and the drive-thru point were established. Thanks to this, in the last 5 months, nearly 50,000 tests were performed, saving diagnostic material for further scientific research for over 500 patients.

Due to mobility limitations, most internships, delegations and participation in conferences were postponed or eventually cancelled. International cooperation was implemented through internet communication tools.

Finally, Principal Investigators of all PUMS research projects financed from external sources have used the opportunity of extending the projects, postponing their schedules or taking into account the costs incurred and related to unrealized delegations.