

## University Medical Center (UMC-LJ)

The University Medical Centre - Ljubljana (UMC-LJ) is the largest public medical institution in Slovenia providing diagnostics and therapy, as well promoting clinical research and education with the main objectives in patients' care encouraging innovative and applicable knowledge in order to serve patients. The UMC-LJ has over 7,000 employees, who serve a population of over one million.

The Department of Rheumatology within UMC-LJ with Prof. Blaz Rozman and Prof. Matija Tomsic provides an optimal environment for epidemiological clinical studies and research of musculoskeletal conditions (inflammatory rheumatic diseases) with multidisciplinary approaches. It consists of an in-patient department, as well as out-patient care and the only emergency rheumatology care in the country. The Dept. of Rheumatology has been involved in several international epidemiological clinical studies.

### Key Staff

**Blaz Rozman**, MD, PhD, Head of Research. He specialized in Internal Medicine. He is currently Professor of Internal Medicine at the Ljubljana Medical School and senior councilor at the UMC-LJ, Hospital dr.

**Peter Držaj**. As author and coauthor he published over 110 articles. Prof. Rozman is a member of the Slovenian Academy of Science and Arts and in 1996, received the National Award for Research in Rheumatology. He is also a member of the Editorial Board of the Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases.

**Matija Tomšič**, MD, PhD, Chair. He trained as a specialist in Internal Medicine. He is currently Head of the Dept. of Rheum. and Associate Professor at the Medical School, University of Ljubljana. He has been principal investigator in several multicentre, international, phase II and phase III clinical trials. He is a member of the European Registries Advisory Board focusing specifically on rituximab and CEE Immunology Advisory Board.

**Sonja Praprotnik**, MD, PhD. She is trained as a specialist in Internal Medicine, is Associate Professor at the Medical School, University of Ljubljana and she is currently Head of Clinical Wards in the Dept. of Rheum. Her duties involve lecturing Rheumatology to medical students.

**Ales Ambrožic**, MD, PhD. He also trained as a specialist in Internal Medicine. His duties involve lecturing Rheumatology to students. Tanja Kveder, PhD. She is Head of the Laboratory for Immunology. She has long-standing experience in hospital-based clinical laboratory diagnostic procedures.

**Sasa Cucnik**, PhD. She has expertise for setting up in-house enzyme linked immunsorbent assays for the detection of autoantibodies as well as implementation of newly developed ELISAs in routine practice.

**Snezna Sodin-Semrl**, PhD. She is primary investigator in charge of all projects of Marie Curie International Reintegration (2005-2007) grant, is Coordinator of a multinational consortium (10 EU centers) involved in FP7 framework submission and Evaluator/Rapporteur of EU FP7 grants.

### Contacts

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