# Ecosystem Slovakia

### **RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**

#### INSTITUTE OF NEUROIMMUNOLOGY SAS

• Norbert Zilka, Rostislav Skrabana, Andrej Kovac

#### **BIOMEDICAL CENTRE SAS**

Barbora Ukropcova

### **GOVERNMENTAL BODIES**

#### MINISTRY OF HEALTH, SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Peter Valkovic, Iveta Hermanovska

### COMPANIES

#### MULTIPLEX DX

Pavol Cekan

#### GENETON

Tomas Szemes

### SOCIETAL ACTORS

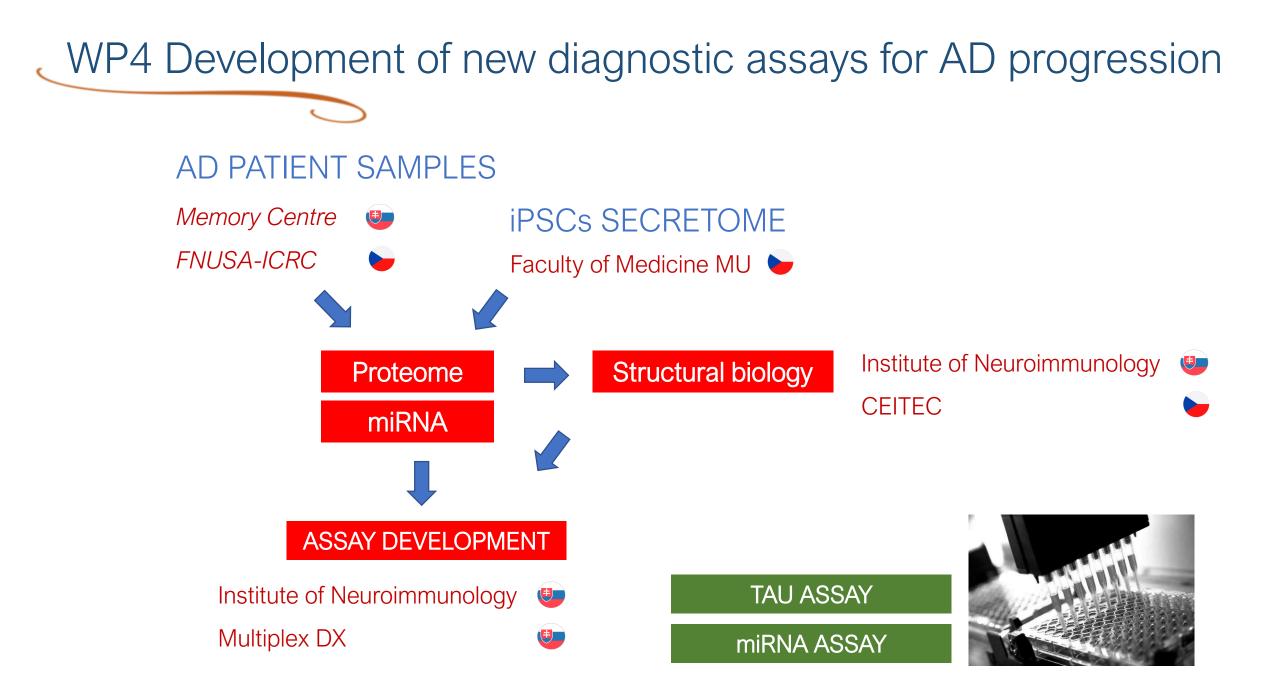
#### CENTRUM MEMORY no.

• Petra Brandoburová, Zuzana Habalová

#### SLOVAK ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY

Norbert Zilka, Maria Wirth, Zlatica Pisklová

Ecosystem Slovakia	
CENTRUM MEMORY no. GENETON	Dementia diagnostics
INSTITUTE OF NEUROIMMUNOLOGY SAS MULTIPLEX DX	Assay development
BIOMEDICAL CENTRE SAS CENTRUM MEMORY no.	Non-pharmacology intervention
MINISTRY OF HEALTH, SLOVAK REPUBLIC INSTITUTE OF NEUROIMMUNOLOGY SAS	National action plan
SLOVAK ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY INSTITUTE OF NEUROIMMUNOLOGY SAS	Dissemination



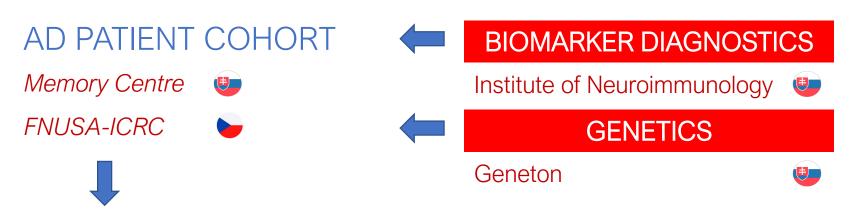
WP4 Development of new diagnostic assays for AD progression

### AD PATIENT SAMPLES

Memory Centre **Biomarker based diagnostics** 60-80 patients per year **cUDS** • Geneton Genetic diagnostics MRI volumometry (Ħ\_ ٠ APP CSF ۲ PS1 PS2 tau 

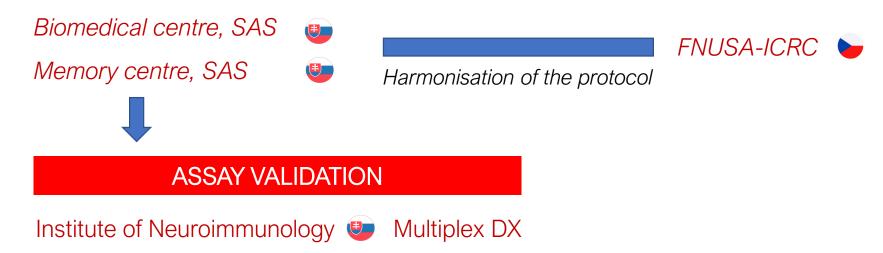
## WP5 Non-pharmacological interventions







# NON-PHARMACOLOGICAL INTERVENTION





Slovak Alzheimer's society

- Brain awareness week
- Alzheimer's day



• Spreading of Information about Slovak AD centres

## Slovak action plan to combat dementia

### DEMENTIA FRIENDLY SOCIETY



Czech Alzheimer's society



Human rights Services and care Education Destigmatization Prevention Diagnostics Epidemiology

Ministry of Health

Slovak Republic

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY SLOVAKIA



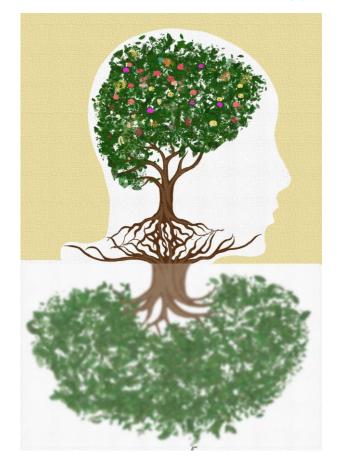
Slovak Alzheimer's society



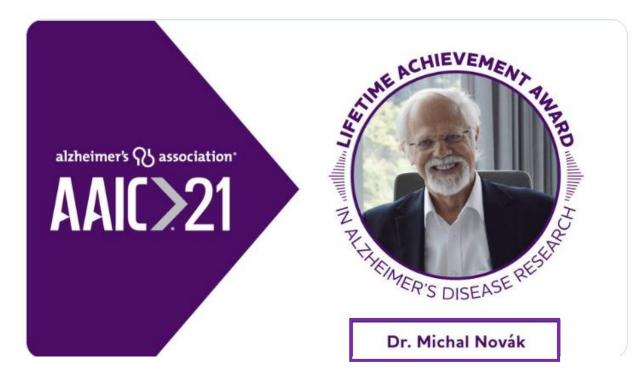
## UNICORN IN THE SLOVAK SCIENTIFIC ECOSYSTEM

# DEEP CAMBRIDGE ROOTS

#### Institute of Neuroimmunology SAS



#### 2021 ALZHEIMER ASSOCIATION AWARD



KHALID IQBAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Laboratory of molecular biology, MRC, Cambridge, UK

# ALZHEIMER'S CLINICAL RESEARCH

#### ADDITION (International project – JPND/Horizon)

 modelling the possible trajectories of Alzheimer's disease to predict when important disease milestones will be reached by individual patients

#### LANCRE-AD (National project)

• establishment of a Slovak Alzheimer's disease patient cohort, with harmonised clinical, cognitive, imaging, and biomarker assessment at key Alzheimer's disease care facilities in Slovakia

## **MultiplexDX**

About: MultiplexDX is a biotechnology company developing multiplexed, accurate, quantitative and accessible diagnostic tests for cancer and infectious diseases. During the pandemic we have developed, validated, certified and sold 11 types of molecular diagnostic tests.

Our mission: To revolutionize breast cancer diagnostics





**Expertise:** 

RNA-seq, RNA FISH, miRNA analyses, Nucleic acid amplification technologies, CE IVD test development

### **30 Scientists | 11 CE IVD COVID-19 diagnostic tests | 6 research projects**



**Dr. Pavol Čekan** Founder & CEO



Dr. Peter Kilián

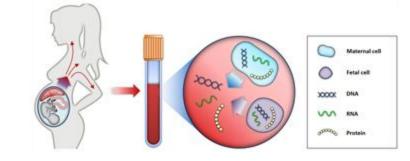


Dr. Adrian Szobi Director of R&D Team Leader for ADDIT CE

More info:

multiplexdx.com

# **Geneton s.r.o.**



- Established in 2006, Geneton s.r.o. is focused on the development of **comprehensive clinical genomics solutions** based on a combination of cutting-edge molecular biology methods such as high-parallel sequencing and proprietary bioinformatics algorithms and methods.
- Geneton has developed the **Trisomy test**, a non-invasive prenatal test for the determination of chromosomal aberrations based on whole genome sequencing of plasma samples from pregnant women, which has been used in clinical practice since 2015.
- The company operates a genetic laboratory in Bratislava, which was accredited in 2020 by the Slovak National Accreditation Service. The laboratory is qualified to perform the determination of **unique identifying genetic profile** and relationship in biological materials of human origin by fragment analysis as well as to perform DNA sequence determination.

Paternity tests testy@geneton.sk www.geneton.sk



#### Selected research projects:

- **PreveLynch** development of a test for screening and detection of colorectal cancer specifically in a subset of patients with Lynch syndrome
- **PanClinCov** research on viral genome and genetic determinants in terms of susceptibility to SARS-Cov-2 infection and tendency to develop COVID-19 disease
- **GenoScan Lbquant** applied research and validation of an assay for prostate cancer screening and monitoring using analysis of circulating free tumor DNA
- **Genomicrosat** development and testing of molecular and informatics methods for efficient characterization and interpretation of relevant microsatellite repetitive motifs from genomic data
- **SepMin** development of a bioinformatics solution to interpret results from a small portable sequencer in Real-Time analysis mode for rapid sepsis detection
- **PANGAIA** research in the area of pangenomic representation of genomic sequences, enhancing the skills of professionals, competencies and education among academic and private partners
- ALPACA creating a network of experts to strengthen existing and create new links within the emerging computational pangenomics bioinformatics community and sharing the experience of teams

Ilkovičova 8 | 841 04 Bratislava | SR T +421 948 372 140 | geneton@geneton.sk www.geneton.sk



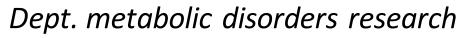
### Biomedicine Centrum of the Slovak Academy of Sciences www.biomedcentrum.sav.sk

### Physical Activity Centre



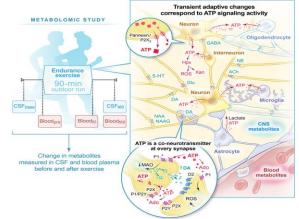
**Translation**: prescription of physical activity in clinical practice, for the prevention and treatment of chronic diseases

- *Prof. MUDr. Barbara Ukropcová, PhD* founded and leads the PAC since 2017
- training studies for seniors, patients with MCI, Parkinson's disease, obesity



Integrated exercise physiology and integrated pathophysiology of "lack of exercise" diseases

- dr. Ukropec, dr. Ukropcová
- Metabolic dysregulation as a pathophysiological substrate of chronic diseases
- Integrating the systemic response to exercise: exercins, exosomes and periphery-brain communication; identification of molecules with neuroprotective potential





Li, Schön, Naviaux, Ukropec, Ukropcova et al, FASEB J. 2022 CSF & plasma metabolomics of acute endurance exercise.





# **Physical Training Intervention**

### Translation into practice:

The use of exercise in prevention and treatment





BMC SAS Centre for Physical Activity Cooperation:

- Regional authorities:
  - Regional Public Health Authorities.

active.me project: movement programmes for seniors in Slovakia

- LFUK and University Hospital Bratislava
- professional medical societies
  - Slovak Society of General practitioners and others
- educational and popularisation activities medics, health professionals, general public

Selected projects: PBRC Grant Award for Young Scientists (2003); European Foundation to Study Diabetes (2010); SAS-NSC Taiwan (2014, 2019); Ministry of Health ČR (2016, 2020); VEGA (2012, 2015, 2018, 2022), APVV 2015 (for BMC SAV), 2020
Professional societies: European Association to Study Diabetes, ISTAART, Exercise & Physical Activity Study; Group ExPAS-EASD (founding member, 2015), Obesitology section SDS (board member), Slovak Obesilotogy Association (founding and board member), Slovak Neurology Society, O.Z. Strieborné Líšky (board member since 2017)

### MEMORY CENTRE N.P.O Bratislava, Slovakia





# **Structure of services**



- is a non-profit organisation established in 2002
- ✓ unique centre in Slovakia regarding to the complexity of offered services
- ✓ integration of the social and healthcare services
- ✓ four outpatient clinics psychiatry, clinical psychology, neurology and treatment pedagogy
- ✓ modern diagnostics and takes part in clinical research of medicines
- ✓ the non-pharmacological therapies in its day-care clinic for patients with Alzheimer's disease
- ✓ support to their family members
- certified facility in science and educational programs in nonpharmacological approaches of treatment, accredited by the Ministry of Labour, Social affair and family of Slovak republic as well as the Ministry of health
- educational materials for public to spread information about dementia and Alzheimer's disease

# **Research focus**









- destigmatisation, fighting stigma and family support
- funded projects to raise the awareness about the Alzheimer's disease
- model of the good practice for the reformation of the psychiatric services health system



- creation and standardization of the Slovak neuropsychological battery NEUROPSY
- development of the telemedical neuropsychological screening method using AI and machine learning
- aging trajectories
- harmonisation of the diagnostic process



- online platform for the education of family and professional caregivers
- new methods of activisation of the elderly including cognitive stimulation
- support groups for family caregivers



## SLOVAK ALZHEIMER SOCIETY

member of

- Alzheimer Europe
- Alzheimer Disease International

groups

- scientists
  physicians
  caregivers
  relatives
- ➤ laymen





## CONTACT POINTS

Slovak Alzheimer Society creates a network of contact points

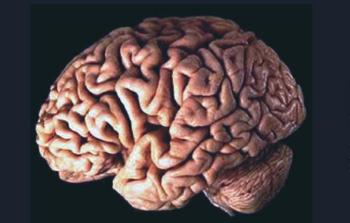




# PUBLIC AWARENESS OF DEMENTIA



### Brain Awareness Week



Týždeň mozgu 2009 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 16. – 22. marca

### Myslíme na svoj mozog?

- Brain Awareness Week (BAW)
- World Alzheimer's day 21<sup>st</sup>
   September



#### Institute of Research and Development



- Mgr. Iveta Hermanovská
- State Advisor since May 2021, MoH, <u>Institute of Research and</u> <u>Development</u>
- Scientific Board Secretary, MoH SR
- Experience: NCP for Health, ERC, MSCA, JRC of H2020,
- National NCP Coordinator H2020
- ERA-NET Transcan project manager

- support of applied research projects in the field of neurodegenerative diseases (calls 2018 and 2019)
- cooperation with ESFRI national nod ECRIN – support of academic clinical trials (training of clinical coordinators and nurses)
- mentoring platform BIOHUB SK support of innovative teams, start-ups and spin-offs
- strengthening of translational and clinical research through professional support including education
- connecting academic and private sector with health care providers to improve innovative diagnostics and therapy







Institute for Research and Development

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