

Semmelweis University and Egis Pharmaceuticals PLC - press release
13.02.2020

The 250-year-old Semmelweis University and Egis Pharmaceuticals have signed a cooperation agreement

The Semmelweis University and Egis Pharmaceuticals PLC have agreed on an even closer and better structured cooperation than before. Their common goal is to further raise the standards of pharmaceutical R+D as well as pharmacist and doctor training by making use of the synergies in each other's activities. As a result of the agreement, new health industrial innovations can be launched and the Semmelweis University can be extended with more practical educational and training elements that also meet the needs of the Hungarian pharmaceutical industry.

Widening the decades-long cooperation between the Semmelweis University and Egis is of key importance as common work between the industrial and the scientific/academic fields has become an unavoidable common interest. **The knowledge base and the amount of information in medical and health science get doubled every two years**, and the pharmaceutical industry is one of the **fastest developing research fields in the world**, pointed out Dr. Béla Merkely. The rector of the Semmelweis University highlighted that the goal of the signed strategic agreement is, among other things, to strengthen the R+D cooperation between the university and Egis and to ensure that pharmaceutical students gain skills that will also meet future industrial demands. He added that it is also planned to set up an international knowledge centre to meet the new market demand and to support economic development.

Dr. István Hodász, CEO of Egis Pharmaceuticals PLC, emphasized that the pharmaceutical industry is already a **key sector** in Hungary, and it will stay that way in the coming decades, as well. It has been agreed that Egis will **set up an onsite department of university faculty** at its sites so that the students can attend university classes, **professional training** and interactive plant visits in a real, industrial environment and in the **unique, scientific and technological training centre of Egis**. Egis has gained century-long experience in **pharmaceutical development** and in the **international marketing of medicines**. Dr. István Hodász added that Egis Pharmaceuticals also shares this knowledge with the university so that its proven wide experience and extensive market skills help the university to put its product development concepts into practice.

In the field of R+D, the two partners are going to work together in several exciting fields in the future. **In the field of active substance development**, research into the application of **even more environmentally friendly chemical procedures**, e.g. green chemistry, is opening new prospects not only in terms of technology but also with regard to the environment and the economy.

Involving already existing, innovative industrial technologies into university research and selling the results (**technological transfer**) is an area that is yet to be explored, and it also forms a part of the cooperation.

As was also the case earlier, the parties take efforts **to apply for R+D tenders as consortium partners** and to possibly set up **joint start-up and spin-off ventures** that start out from the university and later become viable, innovative companies that carry the reputation of the Hungarian pharmaceutical industry and the Hungarian talent all over the world.

It is a cardinal point to create an **appropriate educational environment** for promoting talents and innovative ideas so that future pharmacists and doctors will be able to join the international competition and, after graduation, they contribute added value with their work to the development of the health industry.

The latter idea will be promoted by the Högyes-Schöpf-Merei Pharmaceutical Research Centre - to be built under the Semmelweis XXI Development project - which will provide the Semmelweis University with the opportunity to become one of the top 100 universities of the world. It is also important for Egis that future pharmacists receive training that is adapted to the quickly changing industrial environment. To that end, as was announced upon signing the agreement, the company advised the management of the Faculty of Pharmacy already in the initial planning phase about the quality assurance requirements that the new Pharmaceutical Research Centre has to fulfill with regard to pharmaceutical production and research.

Egis also launched practice-oriented university courses, e.g. **Pharmaceutical industry from A to Z**, an accredited half-year training scheme for credit points, compiled and conducted by the professionals of Egis, or the gap-filler **drug registration course**, which has also been successfully running at the Semmelweis University for years.

Under the ongoing cooperation between the partners, the instruments and laboratory equipment that are still in good condition and that are to be replaced in the instrument fleet of Egis are regularly transferred to the Semmelweis University for further use at the University's institutes. Over the past five years, **instruments and laboratory equipment worth more than HUF 30 million have been delivered** to help practical work at the institutes.

The results and the experience of the strategic cooperation that has been launched today will be regularly reviewed and assessed, and the forthcoming tasks will be specified by a work committee.

Budapest, 13 February 2020



Signed by:

Semmelweis University

The **Semmelweis University** is a leading tertiary medical and health educational institution in Hungary and Central Europe, and takes a unique position in Hungary as a specialized university. Its three main activities cover education, research and healing, and this three-pronged unity makes it a knowledge centre that is also recognized worldwide.

At the same time, the Semmelweis University is the country's largest health institution. The university clinics are the venues of practical training and, besides this, they carry out their activities at the highest level of progressivity. This means that the clinics are obliged to provide nationwide service in most professional areas, thus they play a key role in dealing with patients in the most serious condition and requiring complex treatment.

The Semmelweis University also deals with R+D and innovation, and the ongoing research work focuses on early diagnostics and therapy, the prevention of diseases, the preservation of health as well as healthy and active aging.

The Faculty of Pharmacy (hereinafter: faculty) is widely popular for its outstanding educational, research and scientific activities in the pharmaceutical field, both in Hungary and abroad. The institutes of the faculty conduct major research projects and the students who graduate from here are among the best prepared and most wanted professionals.

Egis Pharmaceuticals PLC

We are one of the leading generic pharmaceutical companies **in Central Eastern Europe**, and our activities incorporate **all areas of the pharmaceutical value chain**. Egis is a member of the **Servier Group**, an international pharmaceutical company governed by a non-profit foundation with its headquarters in France.

In the 2018/2019 financial year Egis Group generated **net sales of EUR 527 million**. **Besides Hungary**, we sell our products under Egis' brand names in **17 countries** through our network of subsidiaries and representative offices.

Our **products** range from active ingredients, through tablets and injections, to galenic (i.e. liquid and semi-solid) formulations and **are available in 65 countries in total** through our network of subsidiaries and representative offices or partners. Last financial year our portfolio consisted of **629 products** that belonged to **159 product lines** and contained **149 active ingredients**.

Our main focus lies on **treating diseases of the cardiovascular and central nervous systems**; however, we also provide modern **treatment solutions in the fields of oncology and women's health**. In 2013, we launched our **first biosimilar monoclonal antibody product**. This was also the first biosimilar monoclonal antibody (mAb) in the European Union. Since then we launched three additional **biosimilar drugs**.

As one of the companies in the Central Eastern European region firmly **committed to innovation**, we **devote approximately 50 EUR million yearly to R&D**. Our research and development activities focus on **high-quality, value-added branded generic products**.



