

Report from OSU Comprehensive Cancer Center visit

From April 10 – 21, 2023, the director of the National Oncology Institute, Mária Rečková, M.D., PhD, participated in working meetings at the James Comprehensive Cancer Center, Ohio State University (OSU) in Columbus, OH.

This business trip focused on mapping the possibilities of cooperation between the National Cancer Institute, National Oncology Institute and American OSU Comprehensive Cancer Center and searching for options of eventual cooperation.



The meeting at the OSU took place upon invitation by prof. Arnab Chakravarti, chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology, and followed up on a fellowship of Dr. Michaela Švajdová within the NOI grant which took place from February 1 to March 1, 2020, and an initial online meeting with the chief expert of the MoH SR for radiation oncology, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pavol Dubinský in July 2023. The objective was to visit James CCC in person and agree on the possibilities of cooperation not only in radiation oncology.

At the meeting, prof. Chakravarti and his team presented medical and research facilities of the James Hospital OSU CCC Department of Radiation Oncology and then, along with OSU CCC management, prof. Chakravarti presented existing international cooperations and possibilities of the training center at the James Cancer Hospital Radiation Department. The possibilities for cooperation are great and our American colleagues are willing to participate, not only in radiation oncology, even though that is the primary field on which we would like to focus. The objective of the cooperation should be mutual growth with potential improvement of care within radiation oncology throughout Slovakia. The honorary consul of Slovakia in the USA, Stephen Zlatos, a lawyer from Indianapolis working with intellectual property, also participated in the meeting and could discuss the possibilities of diplomatic support with our colleagues from OSU. We also agreed on the following in-person meeting at the ESTRO conference in Vienna in May with potential visit by our colleagues from OSU at the National Cancer Institute, which is the reference center for cancer care in Slovakia. The meeting in Slovakia could help our American colleagues better understand the Slovak circumstances.

The business trip has fulfilled its objective to start cooperation with the OSU. With our colleagues, we have defined specific possibilities to move forward in the field of medicine together.

In Bratislava on May 2, 2023