

## Nagovor rektorja UM, prof. dr. Zdravka Kačiča

### 35. posvet Medicina, pravo in družba, 26. 3. 2026, Univerza v Mariboru

Spoštovani člani organizacijskega odbora mednarodnega posveta, predavatelji, moderatorji in razpravljalci, cenjeni visoki gostje, drage študentke in študenti, gospe in gospodje!

Zdravje je ena najglobljih in hkrati najbolj univerzalnih vrednot človeštva. Ko je ogroženo zdravje, postanejo nepomembne razlike med državami, kulturami ali družbenimi sistemi. Ostane le skupna človeška izkušnja ranljivosti in potreba po solidarnosti. Prav zato vprašanja zdravja vedno presegajo meje medicine in postajajo tudi vprašanja prava, etike, družbe in globalne odgovornosti.

V veliko čast mi je in v iskreno zadovoljstvo, da vas lahko pozdravim na 35. jubilejni mednarodni konferenci Medicina, pravo in družba.

Petintrideset let kontinuiranega strokovnega dialoga je pomemben dosežek. Hkrati pa je tudi dokaz, da so vprašanja na stičišču medicine, prava in družbe danes morda še pomembnejša, kot so bila ob začetkih te konference. Svet, v katerem živimo, postaja vse bolj povezan, hkrati pa tudi vse bolj kompleksen. Prav zato potrebujemo prostor dialoga, v katerem se srečujejo različna znanja, izkušnje in perspektive.

Tema letošnje konference »Trajnostni razvoj zdravstva« odpira eno ključnih vprašanj sodobnega časa: kako zagotoviti zdravstvene sisteme, ki bodo dostopni, pravični in vzdržni tudi za prihodnje generacije?

Zdravje danes ni več zgolj medicinsko vprašanje. Postaja tudi pravno, etično, družbeno in globalno vprašanje. Podnebne spremembe, demografski premiki, migracije, nove nalezljive bolezni ter socialne neenakosti pomembno vplivajo na zdravje ljudi in na delovanje zdravstvenih sistemov. Dostop do

## Address of the UM Rector Full Professor Zdravko Kačič

### 35th Conference Medicine, Law and Society, March 26, 2026, University of Maribor

Revered members of the organizational committee of the international conference, lecturers, moderators and scientific discussants, esteemed distinguished guests, dear students, ladies and gentlemen!

Health is one of the most profound and one of the most universal values of humanity. When health is jeopardised, the differences between countries, cultures or social systems become unimportant. What remains is only common human experience of vulnerability and the need for solidarity. This is exactly why issues of health always surpass the frames of medicine and are also becoming issues of law, ethics, society and global responsibility.

Therefore, it is my great honour and sincere pleasure to welcome you to the 35th anniversary of the international conference Medicine, Law and Society. Thirty-five years of continual professional dialogue is an important achievement. Simultaneously, it is also proof that issues at the intersection of medicine, law and society are today perhaps even more important than they were when this conference was first held. The world we live in is becoming ever more connected, and at the same time ever more complex. This is the reason we need a space for dialogue in which various forms of knowledge, experiences and perspectives meet.

The theme of this year's conference "Sustainable Development of Healthcare" is one of the key issues of contemporary time: how to ensure that healthcare systems will be accessible, just and sustainable for future generations.

Health nowadays is no longer merely a medical issue. It is also becoming a legal, ethical, social and global issue. Climate changes, demographic shifts, migrations, new

zdravstvene oskrbe zato postaja eno temeljnih meril pravične in solidarne družbe.

Že Hipokrat je opomnil, da mora v središču vsakega zdravstvenega sistema vedno biti človek, njegova ranljivost, njegovo dostojanstvo in njegova pravica do oskrbe. Vse to je izpostavil v misli, ki je po skoraj tisočletju in pol še vedno aktualna: »*Kjer je ljubezen do človeka, tam je tudi ljubezen do medicine.*«.

Ko razmišljamo o prihodnosti zdravstva, je prav, da v zvezi s tem upoštevamo tudi pomembne zgodovinske mejnike. Leta 1948 je bila ustanovljena Svetovna zdravstvena organizacija ter sprejeta Splošna deklaracija človekovih pravic, ki je prvič jasno zapisala, da ima vsak človek pravico do življenjskega standarda, ki zagotavlja zdravje in dobrobit. Ti dokumenti so postavili temelje sodobnemu razumevanju zdravja kot temeljne človekove pravice.

Trajnost zdravstva ne pomeni le finančne stabilnosti sistemov; pomeni tudi trajnost solidarnosti, odgovornosti in zaupanja. To pa so vrednote, brez katerih noben zdravstveni sistem ne more delovati dolgoročno.

Poseben izziv našega časa predstavlja tudi hiter razvoj umetne inteligence in digitalnih tehnologij v zdravstvu. Napredni algoritmi danes pomagajo pri zgodnjem odkrivanju bolezni, izboljšujejo diagnostične postopke in omogočajo bolj personalizirano zdravljenje. Digitalne rešitve lahko pomembno prispevajo k večji dostopnosti zdravstvenih storitev. A tehnološki napredek vedno odpira tudi nova vprašanja. Gre za vprašanja odgovornosti, varovanja zasebnosti, pravičnosti in zaupanja. In tehnologija sama po sebi ni odgovor. Odgovor je vedno človek s svojo etiko, odgovornostjo in zavezanostjo k skupnemu dobremu.

Zato so razprave o bioetičnih in eksistencialnih izzivih sodobne medicine danes pomembnejše, kot kdaj koli prej. Zdravnik, teolog in humanist Albert Schweitzer je zapisal:

»*Humanost ni v tem, da živimo bolje od drugih, temveč da živimo za druge.*«.

Ta misel zelo jasno povzema bistvo poslanstva zdravstva, prav tako pa tudi poslanstva univerz.

Univerze niso le ustanove znanja. So tudi prostori odgovornosti za prihodnost družbe. Na univerzah

infectious diseases and social inequalities have a vital influence on people's health and on the functioning of healthcare systems. Access to healthcare is therefore becoming one of the basic criteria of a just and solidary society.

Hippocrates reminded us that at the centre of each healthcare system there is a human being, his or her vulnerability, dignity and right to health. All of this he put forward in his thought which is after almost a millennium and a half still relevant: "*Where there is love for humanity, there is also love for medicine.*"

When thinking about the future of healthcare, it is also right to remember vital historical milestones. In the year 1948, the World Health Organization was established and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted which for the first time it was clearly written down that every human has the right to a standard of living which assures health and welfare. These documents have laid the foundations for the modern understanding of health as a fundamental human right.

Sustainability of healthcare does not only mean the financial stability of systems. It also means sustainability of solidarity, responsibility and trust. These are values without which no healthcare system can operate in the long term.

A special challenge of our times is the rapid development of artificial intelligence and digital technologies in healthcare. Advanced algorithms currently help in early detection of diseases, improve diagnostic procedures and facilitate more personalized treatment. Digital solutions can also contribute to greater accessibility of health services.

However, technological progress also raises novel issues, such as responsibility, privacy protection, justice and trust. Thus, technology by itself is not the answer. The answer is always a human with his or her ethics, responsibility and commitment to the common good. This is why discussions about the bioethical and existential challenges of modern medicine are more vital than ever before. A physician, theologian, and humanist Albert Schweitzer wrote: "*Humanity is not about living better than others, but about living for others.*"

This thought very clearly summarizes the essence

nastajajo nova znanja, nove ideje in nove generacije strokovnjakov, ki bodo oblikovale zdravstvene sisteme, pravne okvire in družbene politike prihodnosti.

Na Univerzi v Mariboru se te odgovornosti dobro zavedamo. Zato si prizadevamo za raziskovanje in izobraževanje, ki prispevata k razvoju družbe, k boljšemu zdravju ljudi ter k spoštovanju temeljnih humanističnih vrednot.

Spoštovani. Konference, kot je ta, imajo izjemno vrednost. So prostor srečevanja idej, strok in kultur. Prav v takšnih srečanjih nastajajo nova partnerstva, nova razumevanja in pogosto tudi nove rešitve za kompleksne izzive našega časa.

Prepričan sem, da bodo razprave na tej konferenci pomembno prispevale k razmisleku o tem, kako lahko skupaj gradimo bolj pravične, dostopne in trajnostne zdravstvene sisteme.

Dovolite mi, da ob koncu izrečem še misel, ki nas naj spremlja tudi v prihodnje;

trajnost zdravstva ni le vprašanje sistemov, tehnologij ali zakonodaje, temveč je v svojem bistvu vedno vprašanje naše skupne odgovornosti za človeka.

Naj bo tudi ta konferenca korak v tej smeri!

Hvala lepa.

Prof. dr. Zdravko Kačič,  
rektor Univerze v Mariboru

of the mission of healthcare and the mission of universities as well.

Universities are not only institutions of knowledge. They are also premises of responsibility for the future of society. Universities produce new knowledge, new ideas, and new generations of experts who will shape healthcare systems, legal frameworks, and social policies of the future.

At the University of Maribor we are highly aware of this responsibility. That is why we strive for research and education which contribute to the development of society, to improve the health of people and to respect fundamental humanistic values.

Revered guests, conferences like this one have exceptional value. They are a meeting place for ideas, professions, and cultures. It is in such meetings that new partnerships, new understandings and often new solutions are created for complex challenges of our times.

I am convinced that discussions at this conference will vitally contribute to reflection on how we can together build more just, accessible, and sustainable healthcare systems.

Allow me to conclude with a thought that may accompany us in the future: sustainability of healthcare is not only an issue of systems, technologies or legislation, but at its core it is always an issue of our joint responsibility for humanity.

Let this conference be a step in this direction.

Thank you very much.

Full Professor Zdravko Kačič,  
Rector of the University of Maribor