

Laudatio

Dear respected Rector, your excellency, distinguished guests and colleagues, dear students

Dear Milena,

Let me convey my warmest congratulation to your new Honorary Professor title at our university. This diploma represents our appreciation of your scientific achievements in the field of health economics, and policy and also our gratitude for your devoted contribution to our university, specifically to our Department of Health Economics.

As an esteemed Faculty member of the Department of Health Services Research, Maastricht University, you gained recognition and respect of your colleges by coordinating a 5-year-long, large international EU-funded research project (together with Prof. Groot as a scientific coordinator). This was the first international project which enabled cross-country comparison of formal and informal payment in the Central and Eastern European region. Last year this project has been selected by the European Commission as a success story based on the number of publications, PhD defences, research capacity building, and its potential social/policy impact. We are proud to take part in this project.

Let me just show three figures to describe your scientific achievements.

80+ - Your research so far has resulted in more than 80 international publications in in the prestigious health economics and health policy journals and a similar amount of national publications.

1200 - With more than 1200 citations you certainly have become one of the most frequently cited author in the field of patient payments. One can immediately recognize this if he/she just googles “informal payments” or “patient payments”.

And finally the number 23 – one of the most precious of your achievements – you were and currently are the supervisor of 23 PhD students!!! – so far with a 100%

Petra Baji, Department of Health Economics, Corvinus University of Budapest
Laudatio, Honorary Professor Ceremony, Prof. Milena Pavlova, 2nd May 2017

success rate. Thus, practically, during these years you brought up a new generation of researchers – including myself, who are already assistant or associate professors in different European universities. Your strong devotion to our joint work as a supervisor and later as a research partner highly contributed to our academic careers.

Let me also mention a few things regarding your contribution to our Department and our University, which we greatly appreciate. This year is the 10th anniversary of the start of our collaboration, when you invited us to participate in ASSPRO project. This 10 years of work resulted in 7 papers in impact factor journals together, and one joint paper is just before submission. Not to mention the ongoing research projects, proposals, and cooperation in education

I would also like to remind everyone that in 2012, you acted as a guest editor in a special issue of Society and Economy, the scientific journal of our Faculty. We just learnt from the editor that recently the rank of the journal increased from the 3rd to the 2nd quarter according to the SCImago Journal Rank (SJR) indicator which is a measure of scientific influence of scholarly journals. This graph shows how you gave momentum to the journal. Yes, we know, correlation is not necessarily causation, but still.

Dear Milena, We met you as a person with very high standards, with no compromise, but with a full heart. These features are reflected in your outstanding academic achievements as researcher and supervisor. We truly respect your devotion to your work you are doing. Your approach is a great inspiration for all of us. We feel honoured that you accepted this title and we welcome you on board as a Honorary Professor at the Department of Health Economics.

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