

## **Nothing increases the prosperity of a society like its good health**

- ❖ **Newly approved medications significantly prolong life expectancy**  
Patients who take newer drugs are not only more likely to survive, but they are also in a better state of health, their functional status is better, they have fewer activity limitations and they are more able to engage in activities of daily life. Newly approved medications significantly prolong life expectancy.
- ❖ **Longevity increase is an important part of economic growth and development**  
In the long run, the rate of economic growth is determined by the rate of technological progress, which is generated by private and public R&D investments. The pharmaceutical and medical-device industries are the most R&D-intensive industries in the economy.
- ❖ **Financial benefits that innovative drugs bring to a society significantly exceed their price**  
Benefits consist of reduced total health care expenditures, increased work capability and the capability to perform other activities, and increased contribution to the quality of life and life expectancy. Investments in health and drugs are consequently directly associated with the increase in the productivity of the population, which leads to the economic growth and well-being of the entire society. Between the years 1970 and 2000, additional life expectancy in the United States accounted for more than three trillion dollars in prosperity – an unimaginably high amount. Slovenian life expectancy has risen by more than 7 years (from 72.2 in 1985 to 79.5 in 2009) in the last quarter century, due in large part to the introduction of new drugs.
- ❖ **Innovative drugs should be timely and equally available to all patients**  
Forum is an active stakeholder in the Slovenian health care system and strives to act as a partner with the health authorities in creating a financially sustainable and effective health care system in which innovative drugs would be timely and equally available to all patients. Nothing increases the prosperity of a society like its good health.
- ❖ **Balance affordability concerns with reward for innovation, continuous and stable treatment for Slovenian patients and access to new medicines**  
The Forum association is aware of the economic crisis and its impact, which is forcing the Slovenian government to implement various cost-cutting measures, and has - on several occasions - demonstrated the willingness to help during such a difficult era. However – it is critical to balance affordability concerns with reward for innovation, continuous and stable treatment for Slovenian patients and access to new medicines. Furthermore, when seeking cost-cutting solutions the basic components of a successful economy have to be taken into account and should not be disrupted: stability, predictability, competitiveness, sustainability and certainty of business investments in Slovenia.

**To improve health and well-being at the local level and to achieve long-term objectives in the health care system, we propose multi-level partnerships between all the stakeholders in health care, which would allow for a coordinated approach to the following challenges:**

- ❖ Every stakeholder in health care needs a clear and executable national strategy in the field of health care and a long-term national drug policy for the period 2012-2017. Forum and its members are willing to actively participate.
- ❖ A change in health care system financing is necessary. Private financing through different forms of private health insurance programs or through the introduction of participation system would help strengthen sustainability and development of high quality health care for the Slovenian people and it would enable the further availability of innovative drugs.

- ❖ We need timely recognition and a way of proving the added value of health innovations with the purpose of achieving the highest possible quality of health care for our citizens and with it the prosperity of our entire society.

We look forward to cooperating in the present and future challenges and solutions that the task of developing a high quality health care system certainly demands. For this difficult journey we can offer a lot - our knowledge, our willingness to learn and the innovative solutions of our scientific research work.

### **Let's promote health and innovative therapies of modern world diseases together**

The Forum is constantly striving to enable all Slovenian people access to high-quality information about innovative therapeutic solutions for treatment and medicinal products. For this purpose the Forum intends to establish mobile information centers that are going to promote health and innovative therapies of modern world diseases. We would like to attract to the project the Ministry of Health, the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia, the Association of Health Institutions of Slovenia, professional medical and pharmaceutical organizations, patient organizations and other groups and individuals. We welcome cooperation with everyone aware of the importance of genuine information on maintaining good health and providing treatment of modern world diseases.

Information helps people prevent disease, facilitates early discovery and better treatment of diseases, and stimulates cooperation of well-informed patients in the adoption of decisions that influence their health and leads to a healthier society.

**We encourage Slovenian health policy-makers to commence a national strategy for a healthy society that will pave the way to a financially sustainable, stable, predictable, competitive and effective health care system in which innovative drugs would be timely and equally available to all patients.**