

Statement

Centre for Innovation in Medicine position on the war in Ukraine

(3rd of March 2022)

“Science and innovation do not stop because the war has begun. Nor will we stop” – Dr. Marius Geantă, President

The war in Ukraine, overlapping with the health crisis caused by the pandemic, changed our lives overnight, once again. The period of pandemic calm (perhaps even of transition to the endemic phase) that we had been waiting for and anticipating after the Omicron wave was brutally replaced by the noise of war.

We are all rediscovering the fear and the uncertainties of just two years ago, from the first days of the pandemic. We have a health crisis, but it is completely different from the pandemic health crisis. Naturally, not only health, but individual safety, from all points of view, has become and is now our main concern.

At the Centre for Innovation in Medicine, we are aware not only that we have not returned to pre-pandemic normalcy, but that we have entered the new post-pandemic normalcy, we are experiencing a new-new reality.

A reality in which millions of people are actually defending their lives, but also in which millions more, naturally less visible now, are working in research laboratories to save other lives or improve people's quality of life.

Science and innovation do not stop because the war has begun. Nor will we stop, although we are aware that people's interest in the topics we propose will be naturally low for a period of time, and it will be a difficult and unequal struggle to capture the public attention.

We are and will be here, through the research, communication, education and policy projects you already know, as we prepare to launch new initiatives in the field of cancer, cardiovascular disease, personalised medicine, genomic medicine, health literacy and public health.

When the guns become silent, we will still be here, certainly stronger and at least as determined to make innovation a factor that reduces the inequalities the war has already made even greater than they were.