



European Researchers' Night

2021

As almost every year, we have participated in the **European Researchers' Night** project, represented by PhD student Mgr. **Ivana Večurková**, who represented the workplace on 25.09.2021. The main organizer of this event is the Slovak Organization for Research and Development Activities which in cooperation with the Slovak Academy of Sciences, the EurActiv.sk portal and the Centre for Scientific and Technical Information of the Slovak Republic, tries to gather interest of school-age children with its program every year. Emphasis lies on increasing their interest in the study of natural sciences and technical programs at universities.

Also this year, during the **15th European Researchers' Night**, webinars on various topics from the field of science and technology took place in the week from 20 to 25 September 2021 as part of the "Science without borders" program. On Thursday (24.09.2021), the "Online Studio" brought discussions in which every curious researcher could participate. On Friday, the culmination of the project took place through the "**Visit your school - meet your scientist**" program, which could take place in presence or online form. At the Church elementary school of St. Faustíny in Dlha Lúka (Bardejov district) **Mgr. Ivana Večurková** prepared the program for the 8th and 9th grades (both presence and distance learning). In the timeframe of 2 x 45 minutes, she tried to maintain the attention of teenagers, which was a challenge for the young PhD student. At the beginning, she gave the presentation "Biomarkers of colorectal cancer" to both groups, which was supposed to introduce her scientific research work (Fig. 1).



The presentation included videos on CRC, colonoscopy (this video had a huge success), tissue processing, and finally a video on DNA-based protein synthesis since we study protein biomarkers. During this video, the importance of DNA was highlighted. Simple questions were asked during the presentation to test their knowledge about DNA (e.g. how long is it, with which vertebrate and invertebrate do we have the most similar DNA), resulting in a smooth transition to the practical part, where the first task was the isolation of DNA from a banana (Fig. 2), followed by pipetting as a part of routine laboratory work. By using automatic pipettes and coloured solutions students created images in the micro well plates.



2019

The Festival of Science - European Researchers' Night is a project financially supported by the program of European Commission for supporting research, development and innovation - Horizon 2020. The project was initiated by the European Commission and is organized in 30 European countries. The event has also become established in Slovakia, and in 2019 the 13th European Researchers' Night took place in Slovakia. More information at <https://www.nocvyskumnikov.sk/o-festivale.html>

The event takes place during the last Friday of September simultaneously in several cities in Slovakia, including Košice. UPJŠ in Košice takes part in this event, and in recent years the employees of the Department of Medical and Clinical Biochemistry of the Faculty of Medicine have also participated in the event. The event took place on Friday, September 27, 2019, from 9:00 to 21:00 in OC Atrium Optima Košice. The ceremonial opening of the festival took place at 10:00 a.m. in the presence of the organizers and partners of the event. More details at <https://www.nocvyskumnikov.sk/program/mesto-kosice.html>





2018

