

MEDICUBA-EUROPA Campaign 2017-21:

SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA CONTINUES!

Dear friends,

Since its foundation **mediCuba-Europa** has been the only European network of organizations, which stand for their solidarity with Cuba and specialize in medicine. mediCuba-Europa consists of organizations from 13 countries supporting first of all Cuba's national public health system.

Our present solidarity campaign with Cuba aims to support on various fronts:

1. **Support of the development of the Cuban sciences** by means of cooperation programs to establish a technological "scientific pool" in Cuba especially in the field of biotechnology and here especially in cooperation with the Centre of Molecular Immunology (CIM).
2. **Emergency measures against the blockade**, e.g. providing antitumor medicine for children and supporting scientific research and development of pharmaceutical products for the cancer treatment of children.
3. **Support of solidarity between Cuba and other countries of the south** through cooperation projects with the ELAM (Latin American School of Medicine).

At present we are about to focus the support of especially those countries, which are already working with mediCuba-Europa, on an investment which is particularly important for Cuba. It is a project, which MINSAP, the Cuban Ministry of Health, considers to be first priority. It concerns the reinforcement and further development of microbiological diagnostics in Cuba, a method far superior to the conventional one in accuracy, speed and biosafety. This project has become possible with the help of and cooperation with the Institute of Tropical Medicine Pedro Kourí (IPK) in Havana, the institute of national reference.

The country needs the improvement of a modern microbiological monitoring and diagnostic technology, which enables to identify specific microorganisms, to initiate a rapid therapy of patients and get epidemics under control right at the beginning. Cuba has a net of 16 laboratories for microbiology on the provincial level (CPHEM), which take care of diagnostics and supervision in their region. The CPHEM already cover a wide range of diagnostics with the help of conventional technologies, but they do not have a laboratory for molecular diagnostics at their disposal yet, as there is only one in Havana at the moment, the IPK.

Thanks to our project, diagnostic possibilities will be introduced which still do not exist in Cuba. There is a special focus on diseases like dengue, cholera, multiresistant tuberculosis, AIDS, influenza epidemics, Ebola, Zika, chikungunya infections and the problem of multiresistance in general. Apart from the one in Havana, two more laboratories of national reference (LNR) in Santiago de Cuba and in Villa Clara are going to be equipped and the IPK in Havana as well as the provincial laboratories (CPHEM) will be upgraded. As soon as this has been done, the Ministry of Health will be responsible for the maintenance of the equipment as well as the instruction of the staff, the purchase of diagnostic reagents and other material.

The 5-year-project amounts to over 2.5 million Euro. In the first year (2017) 350,000 Euro will be provided for the equipment of a parasitological department in the IPK and an upgrade for the provincial laboratories.



The network mediCuba-Europa looks back on a 20-year-history of solidarity and cooperation with Cuba, always focussing on the defence of Cuba and the support of the Cuban health system. More than ever we back Cuba in its effort to keep and improve its social achievements just as the technological development in the health system, especially in these difficult times.

In order to continue supporting Cuba, ongoing work is necessary. For this work mediCuba-Europa needs your help! This can happen in a number of ways:

- by organizing events in favour of the project,
- by spreading word about its benefits,
- by donating to our community fund, which will enable us to continue the cooperation with Cuba in a lasting way.

Precisely supporting the current project financially, can be an important signal of our European solidarity with Cuba.

Your help, however small, will be essential and contributes significantly to Cuba's role as an example for the world!

Thank you very much! Muchas gracias!

Prof. Dr. med Franco Cavalli

President mediCuba-Europa

Bank account in Euro:

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