FEAM
Federation of European
Academies of Medicine

To the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Professor László Lovász

Brussels, 12 March 2019

Dear Professor Lovász,

I would like to express the support of FEAM to the Hungarian Academy of Sciences following recent

restructuring proposals that will have a direct impact on the Academy's role as research leader in

its country.

FEAM calls for the Hungarian Government to continue supporting research excellence in Hungary

by maintaining the current infrastructure, funding and scientific independence of the Hungarian

Academy of Sciences and its network of institutes.

While Orbán's Government's intention to strengthen innovation in Hungary is welcome, its

proposed changes to national legislation affecting the Hungarian Academy of Sciences are of high

concern to FEAM and its member Academies. The Academy plays a leading role in Hungarian

research but restructuring plans developed by the Government without consulting the scientific

community could have seriously detrimental consequences for both. Public funding allocated to

the Hungarian Academy for its research operations is expected to be reduced drastically and a large

portion of its 2019 allocation has already be retained by the Ministry for Innovation and Technology.

Such a move will lead to the closure of many well-established research institutes and impact close

to 4000 active researchers. The planned restructure will also see the Academy's ability to set its

research agenda according to its own excellence criteria jeopardized. In this context, retaining

excellent scientists in Hungary will be challenging and developing better public-private partnerships

to support innovation as recommended by the Academy will remain an issue of concern.

FEAM strongly supports calls by the academic community to redress the current situation and to

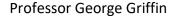
provide the financial and structural means for the Hungarian Academy of Sciences to remain a

leader in Hungarian research.

I look forward to hearing how this unfortunate situation develops and hope that positive news will

follow.

Yours sincerely,



President of FEAM

Fellow of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences