

Rovó rektor intézkedései miatt egy amerikás magyar orvosprofesszor felmondta az együttműködését a Szegedi Tudományegyetemmel



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▶ **Rendkívüli hírlevél** Amit azonnal tudni kell



📷 Rovó László, a Szegedi Tudományegyetem rektora. | Fotó: Koszticsák Szilárd/MTI/MTVA

Felmondta együttműködését a Szegedi Tudományegyetemmel (SZTE) Mirnics Károly, a Nebraska Egyetem professzora. Mirnics hosszú levélben részletesen indokolta, hogy miért tette ezt. Mielőtt az okokra rátérnénk, érdemes azt is megnézni, miben állt Mirnics együttműködése. A Nebraskai Egyetem Orvosi Központja pszichiátriai, biokémiai és molekuláris biológiai, farmakológiai és kísérleti idegtudományi professzora egyrészt egy évtizede vendégoktatóként és tudományos tanácsadóként dolgozott Szegeden, másrészt rendszeresen fogadott fiatal magyar kutatókat nebraskai laboratóriumában is.



Szatmar Horvath
on Wednesday

Szeged, Tübingen, Ungarn
Szeged, Káhnia sugrút 17, 6725 Hungary

Letter of Resignation

Dear Janos,

I hold your department and institution in great regard, and I consider you a personal friend. You have amazing scientists, and it has been pleasure and privilege to serve as a visiting research professor and scientific advisor at University of Szeged for the last decade or so. As you know, at least four young researchers from University of Szeged have been trained in my laboratory in the USA, and I am committed to the advancement of Hungarian neuroscience and biological psychiatry. Unfortunately, I am resigning all my affiliations with University of Szeged effective immediately. I do this with heavy heart and with great regret. Due to our long-standing, wonderful relationship, I feel that I owe you an explanation.

This is not about the firing of Dr. Horváth, his performance, Rector Rovó's actions, or me playing politics. It is about what I believe in, and my views how an academic society must function. When the academic framework breaks down at a fundamental level, I can no longer participate in it. This is about justice and fairness, and how the academic spirit dies with a whisper. Let us remove the names, and think over the facts. 1) A powerful academic leader breaks the national rules for his pleasure, lies about it, gets COVID-19, and endangers patients by operating on them while potentially COVID-19 positive; 2) an ethics committee chair, who should investigate his alleged transgressions, is abruptly fired by the powerful leader who allegedly broke the rules.

What is wrong in this picture and why do these events prompt me to resign my affiliations with University of Szeged? First, rules should equally apply to everyone. Second, lies, breaking rules, and endangering others, especially when coming from a top official, should have consequences. Third, power should not be absolute - a person entrusted with leadership should not be judge, jury and executioner, and especially not if the perception is that he is taking such action for his own gain (or as a retaliation). Fourth, where are the university mechanisms that ensure checks and balances? Fifth, where is the outrage? Is it there, but fear of the power prevents it from crying out loud, or we just no longer care? The overall set of events sends a chilling message: if you speak truth to the power, you will be left without a job.

I could see this sequence of events happening in a third-world country run by a totalitarian warlord, but not in Hungary - with its culture and commitment to democratic values. Still, I would like to believe that my idealistic view of the Hungarian academia is not misplaced, and that the university framework has the will to correct itself. Mistakes and hasty decisions happen in every organization, but a strength of an academic institution is often revealed by its strength to admit the mistake, and reverse course when needed.

Firing Dr. Horváth should be looked at in this context. I cannot debate if he is a great physician or he is not, or if he is a good person or not. I do not know that, and nor does Rector Rovó. For the unfolding events, it is irrelevant. That is for professional organizations to determine, and should Dr. Horváth have broken patient care rules, his license should be revoked. Based on those findings the Rector can act, should act, and remove him from his post if warranted so. If Dr. Horváth demonstrated some other kind of unacceptable behavior, incompatible with his status as a faculty member, a committee of his peers should impartially investigate, find out all the facts, interview him, judge him, and recommend removal of his faculty status (if warranted so based on the findings). He should be able to appeal this process, and seek legal remedy if he desires so. Importantly, this same process should be equally, impartially applied to any faculty member AND the rector.

Systems protect all of us, and when they work properly, ensure fairness and justice. When they break down, trust in the society is eroded. This has a trickle-down effect. Ultimately, the fear prevents media from speaking up and holding individuals publicly accountable for their actions. This is how democracy and academic freedom die, and is replaced by a totalitarian system, where fear from the people in power is the only rule. I will not, cannot be part of it.

Sincerely Yours,

Károly Mirnics, MD, PhD
Director, Munroe-Meyer Institute for Genetics and Rehabilitation, UNMC, Omaha, NE, USA
Hattie B. Munroe Professor of Psychiatry, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Pharmacology & Exp Neuroscience

Sosem az mond le, akinek kellene.

Nem kértem rá, de Ő megtette.

[Karoly Mirnics](#) - BARÁT, MENTOR, PÉLDAKÉP.

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Ennek az együttműködésnek vet most véget, saját indoklása szerint az SZTE rektora, Rovó László cselekedetei miatt. Rovó még a járvány első hullámában, sísabadsága alatt fertőződött meg koronavírussal, ennek ellenére nem vonult karanténba, hanem beteget és kollégái egészségét veszélyeztetve még műtött is. Amikor pedig egyik beosztottja, Horváth Szatmár etikai eljárást kezdeményezett ellene, egyszerűen kirúgta beosztottját.

Illetve, ahogy írja, nem feltétlenül a konkrét történések miatt, hanem elvi alapon mondott fel. "Távolítsuk el a neveket, és gondoljuk át a tényeket. 1) Egy nagyhatalmú tudományos vezető saját örömeire megszegi az állam által hozott szabályokat, hazudik, megfertőződik COVID-19-el, és veszélyezteti a betegeket azáltal, hogy műtéteket végez rajtuk, miközben vélhetőleg COVID-19-tel fertőzött; 2) az etikai bizottság elnökét, akinek ki kell vizsgálnia az állítólagos vétséget, hirtelen elbocsátja a szabályokat állítólagosan megszegő nagyhatalmú vezető" - írja levelében, aminek a fordítását Horváth Szabolcs tette közzé a Facebookon.

**Szabolcs Horváth**
on WednesdaySzeged, Tübingengate
Szeged, Káhnia ugról 17, 6725 Hungary**Letter of Resignation**

Dear János,

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Káhnly Mirnics, MD, PhD

Director, Munroe-Meyer Institute for Genetics and Rehabilitation, UNMC, Omaha, NE, USA
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Nagyon fontos gondolatok a demokráciáról, a fékek és ellensúlyokról, egy amerikai professzortól.

Felmondó levél

Kedves János,... [See More](#)

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Mirnics, mint írja, azért mond le, mert egyrészt a szabályokat mindenkinek be kéne tartania, másrészt következményeinek kéne legyenek annak, ha egy vezető a szabályok megszegése után hazudik, harmadrészt elfogadhatatlannak tartja, hogy egy vezetőnek, mint esetünkben Rovónak abszolút hatalma van, és szimplán kirúghatja, aki az ő hibáit vizsgálja.

Mirnics levelében az általános magyarországi állapotokkal is szembesülni kényszerült. "[H]ol van a felháborodás? Van-e egyáltalán, csak már a hatalomtól való félelem megakadályozza, hogy a kritika hangosan szót emeljen, esetleg ez már senkit sem érdekel? Az események összessége borzongató üzenetet küld: ha valaki igazat mond a hatalomnak, akkor munka nélkül marad" - írja, levelét azzal zárva, hogy:

"[í]gy hal meg a demokrácia és az akadémiai szabadság, és ahelyüket egy totalitárius rendszer váltja fel, ahol a hatalom embereitől való félelem az egyetlen szabály. Ennek nem leszek, nem lehetek része".