

Univerza
v Ljubljani

Fakulteta *za kemijo*
in kemijsko tehnologijo

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VABILO NA PREDAVANJE
V OKVIRU DOKTORSKEGA ŠTUDIJA
KEMIJSKE ZNANOSTI / INVITATION TO THE
LECTURE WITHIN DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN
CHEMICAL SCIENCES

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z naslovom / title:

**Briefly about viruses and their hosts: War of the
worlds or dance of evolution**

**v sredo, 26. 10. 2022 ob 15. uri /
on Wednesday, 26. 10. 2022 at 15.00**

**v predavalnici 1 v 1. nadstropju Fakultete za kemijo in
kemijsko tehnologijo, Večna pot 113 / in lecture room 1,
1st floor at the Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical
Technology, Večna pot 113**

Vljudno vabljeni! | Kindly invited!

Abstract:

Expected with great hope and accompanied by unprecedented success of science and technologies, the third millennium has presented us with a number of health and societal challenges, showing that we are not untouchable. Old diseases reminded of themselves (cholera, plague, yellow fever), henipaviruses, Zika and Ebola viruses caught the attention of not only specialists, we went through the first influenza pandemic of the 21st century. In less than 2 decades, 3 new pathogenic human coronaviruses were identified – SARS-CoV-1, MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2. The last one caused the COVID-19 pandemic, in which the world has been living for more than 2 and a half years, took lives of more than 6.5 million people, the long-term manifestations of the disease (the so-called long COVID) still hide a lot of unknowns. At the end of July 2022, another disease completely unknown to the general public until yesterday - monkeypox - was declared a public health emergency of international concern by the WHO.

What's happening in the world of infectious agents and viruses; what is the driving force that makes them deviate from their usual behavior; where do new viruses come from; is it possible to predict their appearance and be prepared for such surprises in the future? Have we learned the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic, how important is the role of scientists and whether our efforts alone are enough; will we be able to put into practice the concept of one health, joining humans, animals and the environment.

And more: can viruses be our friends? Are endogenous retroviruses a treasure or a curse? Will viruses help us fight antibiotic resistance in microorganisms and cancer? Why is there talk of virolution?

Let us start the discussion now.