Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to tell you a few words about Katalin Barabas, our colleague and an outstanding teacher who will be presented the Graz Conference Award today.

She is a graduate of the Szeged Medical University and following completion of her studies she decided to remain at the university and progressed from Researcher to Associate Professor over time.

Her work greatly helps the Department of Public Health, where she established the “Preventive Health Educational Activity”. For her enthusiastic work she received the “Freddie Mercury Award”. She holds a PhD and is a Habilitation Teacher - to mention just a few of her credentials.

In 1998, the founding fathers of the Department of Behavioural Sciences asked Katalin to head the newly established department. Amongst her body of work it is worthy of mention that she developed the courses for communication training in medicine, health education and development, and thanatology and gerontology. All of them highly patient centered, practical and greatly helpful in the medical practice generally.

In Hungary she was the first to introduce training courses for medical students involving the use of actors. By having them recorded using real life situations, she greatly helped analyze and enhance communication between patients and future doctors.

She is also the secretary of the Hungarian Medical Training Association, and member of the Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE)

Beside graduate and postgraduate education of medical students, she has actively participated in teaching and the development of education programs for the Faculty’s of Dentistry, Pharmacy, and the College of Health Sciences from the very beginning of her career.

She is a founding member of the Doctoral School of Education, and also a Founder of the Applied (Social and) Health Psychology Faculty of Szeged.
Katalin never seems to run out of ideas on how to improve and help the training of Doctors to the great benefit of their future patients.

But in addition to all these truly great and inspirational achievements and credentials lies an individual who is warm hearted, humble, and always willing to give freely of her time, effort and knowledge - and for those of us who have come to know her as a friend and colleague, someone who is a pleasure to know and to work with and for whom there can surely be no better and worthy recipient of this award!

Dr. Ferenc Bari
Dean of the Faculty of Medicine
University of Szeged

Dr. Oguz Kelemen
Head of the Department for Behavioral Sciences
University of Szeged