

## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

I have grown up with my roots in toxicology. It is therefore a pleasure to introduce these Proceedings from the toxicological conference. This collection contains presentations from the 8<sup>th</sup> Interdisciplinary Czech-Slovak Toxicological Conference, organized in Praha, 2003. The series of these interdisciplinary toxicological conferences started in 1996 in Piešťany as the 1<sup>st</sup> Slovak-Czech Conference. The 2<sup>nd</sup> conference was in Hradec Králové in 1997, then in Trenčianské Teplice, further followed by conferences in Plzeň, Trenčianské Teplice and Hradec Králové. The 7<sup>th</sup> Interdisciplinary Slovak-Czech Toxicological Conference was held in Martin in 2002. Czech and Slovak toxicologists thus, have a possibility to meet and discuss each year alternately in the Czech or Slovak Republic their latest knowledge and results. I appreciate that employees of the National Institute of Public Health in Praha were asked to organize the 8<sup>th</sup> such conference in 2003. The participation of about 90 experts reflected the popularity of these toxicological conferences and the tradition created by the Section of Toxicology of the Czech Society of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology of the Czech Medical Association together with its Slovak partner. This time even a cooperation of the Czech Medical Association and Czech Chemical Society was successfully realized thanks to the sections involved: cooperation among toxicologists, clinical doctors and colleagues from occupational medicine, biologists, physicists, analytical, theoretical and organic chemists. Such cooperation was very much alive during our younger days and as we can see the years have not weakened it. I noticed that more young and new faces are appearing, who enjoy working at the edge of such diverse disciplines. I am pleased that the National Institute of Public Health could support both technically and financially the publication of these Proceedings. I would like to thank all collaborators who assisted the successful course of the conference and the publishing of this Supplement in our journal, the Central European Journal of Public Health! Ultimately I wish also to thank to all participants for their work, discussion and self-discipline!

Good luck and much success to the next, 9<sup>th</sup> Interdisciplinary Slovak-Czech Toxicological Conference to be held by our Slovak colleagues in Malé Karpaty near Modrá at September 15–17, 2004.

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