

Professor MUDr. RNDr. Jindřich Jíra, DrSc., celebrates his 80th

This year Professor Jindřich Jíra celebrates a major personal anniversary. He was born in Prague in 1925 and graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at Charles University of Prague in 1950. As a student of the Faculty of Medicine he took interest in parasitology, which later became the main subject of his scientific and clinical work. His interest in parasitology brought him to the Faculty of Science, Charles University, where he studied parasitology and graduated in 1952. At that time a group of enthusiastic young scientists had begun to gather around Professor Otto Jírovec at the Faculty of Science – a distinguished, internationally recognized scientist – who not only highlighted, but also deepened knowledge in the area of medical parasitology and the diagnostics of parasitic infections occurring in the former Czechoslovak Republic. Furthermore, he co-operated intensively with clinicians interested in human parasitology. Under the supervision of Professor Jírovec, Doctor Jíra began to study male trichomoniasis, to which very little attention had been devoted previously. Investigations of this parasitic disease also became the subject matter of his Ph.D. thesis, which he defended in 1957. In 1972, he completed his specialty training in the field of medical microbiology and parasitology. Toxoplasmosis was another topic in which Doctor Jíra was interested and which he had dealt with for a number of years. After moving to the Parasitological Institute of the former Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (now the Czech Academy of Sciences) he was appointed head of the research Laboratory for Toxoplasmosis and other Parasitic Zoonoses. When the Institute for Tropical Medicine at the Institute for Further Education of Physicians and Pharmacists was founded, Dr. Jíra became the head of the Department for Malaria and Opportunistic Parasitic Diseases and was appointed the head of both the National

Reference Laboratory for Malaria and the Section of Medical Parasitology, where he employed his broad knowledge as well as his vast contacts with international experts. In 1982, he defended his doctoral dissertation thesis devoted to the immunodiagnostics and the epidemiology of toxoplasmosis.

Dr. Jíra lectured in parasitology at the Faculty of Pediatrics and the Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics at Charles University for a number of years. As an individual author or co-author he has published over 300 scientific papers and 19 scientific and encyclopaedic monographs during his long-standing scientific carrier. He has given more than 100 lectures at various conferences and symposia held in the Czech Republic and abroad.

Together with Professor Kouba and Dr. Hübner, he was awarded the prize of the Czechoslovak Academy for their book titled *Toxoplasmóza (Toxoplasmosis)* (Avicenum, 1974). In 1989 he received the J. A. Komenský commemorative medal for his long-standing co-operation with the Komenský University of Bratislava. During his scientific carrier he has been a member of numerous scientific societies and committees. After retiring, he continued his scientific activities and became involved in publishing. Since 1994 he has worked as scientific consultant of the Galén publishing house.

Professor Jíra's scientific activities as well as his contributions to the field of parasitology are numerous. A list of them would be too long to be presented here.

We highly appreciate Professor Jíra's scientific contribution to the field of parasitology. On the occasion of his 80th birthday we wish him good health and well-being.

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