

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

PROF. CTIRAD JOHN RETIRES FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD OF THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The editorial board of the Central European Journal of Public Health (CEJPH) would like inform our readership with regrets that Professor Ctirad John, MD, ScD, a long-time member of the editorial board, has announced his resignation from the position as of January 1, 2008 for health reasons.

Professor Ctirad John is one of the most outstanding representatives of postwar medical microbiology and immunology in the Czech Republic. He was born in 1920 and after secondary school graduation entered the Faculty of Medicine, Charles University, in Prague in 1939. As all universities in the country were closed under the Nazi occupation, he worked as a teacher in Písek and after the liberation, continued his studies at the Faculty of Medicine to graduate in 1949. He immediately engaged in medical microbiology at the Institute of Medical Microbiology and Immunology where in 1957, under the supervision of the head of the Institute and his teacher, Professor F. Patočka, MD, he defended his PhD thesis entitled „Pathogenesis and Immunogenesis of Brucellosis“. He devoted a substantial part of his professional life to this issue and significantly contributed to the eradication of the infection in the Czech Republic. The study of the host-microbe relationship, mechanisms implicated in the protection of the macroorganism and formation of antibodies and principles of adjuvant immunization became the centre of his attention almost 50 years ago already. He obtained the Associate Professor degree in 1959 but had to wait for approval to defend his ScD thesis until 1985. In 1970, after Professor Patočka had retired, he took over the Institute of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, 1st Faculty of Medicine, Charles University, to be appointed the head of the Institute in 1981.

In 1990, after the political rehabilitation, he obtained the degree of Professor of Medical Microbiology and Immunology and became a member of the following bodies: Academic Senate of the 1st Faculty of Medicine, Charles University, Scientific Committee of the Institute of Microbiology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, National Institute of Public Health, and grant agency. In 1994, he was a founding member of the Learned Society of the Czech Republic. He was designated a member of the Medical Academy of the Czech Republic in 2004. Furthermore, he is a member of the editorial boards of *Folia microbiologica* and *Central European Journal of Public Health* and the chair of the editorial board of *Acta Universitatis Carolinae Medica*. His membership and activities in the committees of microbiological and immunological associations should also be mentioned.

More than 100 original articles, 52 review articles and over 300 lectures presented both in the Czech Republic and in other countries, and authorship or co-authorship of a range of monographs and manuals illustrate the wide span of his interests and scientific activities.

For an outstanding contribution to the development of medical microbiology and immunology, he was awarded several medals by professional societies and in 2006 received the medical knighthood from the President of the Czech Medical Chamber. As a lecturer, he has awakened interest in microbiology and immunology in several generations of Czech physicians. His scientific merits were also acknowledged internationally: he was appointed a member of the World Health Organization Expert Group for the Epidemiology of Brucellosis and of the WHO Panel on the Teaching of Immunology at the Faculties of Medicine.

By this brief recapitulation that is far from being representative of the entire span of Professor's John interests and his scientific and pedagogical significance, the CEJPH Editorial Board would like to express its thanks and appreciation for his great contribution to the creation of the image of the journal. We wish Professor John all the very best for a happy and fruitful retirement.

*Editorial Board
Central European Journal of Public Health*