

Professor Jan Šejda, MD, DSc, dies at 84

Professor Jan Šejda died on 9 November 2018. He was 84 years old. Professor Jan Šejda was well known among epidemiologists and colleagues in related fields. He will be remembered as an educated man, great organiser, researcher, educator, examiner, colleague, and friend.

In 1963, he began to work as an assistant professor at the Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology in Prague. In 1965, he began his career at the Institute for Postgraduate Medical Education. He worked at the Department of Epidemiology for many years and finally became a head of the Department. In the period from 1972 to 1975 he worked as an epidemiologist at the World Health Organization for the Caribbean. After working abroad, he returned to his previous workplace. His scientific activities made him a highly sought-after expert, Jan Šejda was appointed a chief expert of the Ministry of Health in the field of epidemiology and he also became a member of many advisory and expert bodies including Committee of the Society for Epidemiology and Microbiology of the Czech Medical Association of Jan Evangelista Purkyně.

In the 1990s, he worked in the Office of Public Health Authority of the Capital City of Prague. He focused on substance abuse epidemiology. His prolific pedagogical and publishing activities are documented by many works published in Czech as well as international journals.

During his work he managed to regulate strategies for routine immunization of children and management, organization and control of vaccination based on verified data on population immunity. The Czech Republic then became one of the leading countries in routine immunization of children.

Jan Augustin, MD