Professor Vladimír Bencko, MD, D.Sc. has passed away

On October 18, 2022, Professor Vladimír Bencko, MD, D.Sc., passed away just short of his 85th birthday (*6. 1. 1938). Professor Bencko was an eminent specialist in the fields of hygiene, epidemiology and public health. The scope of his specialised and organisational activities was wide-ranging; for many years he was the vice-chairman in the editorial board of the international Central European Journal of Public Health, acted as editor in for the journals Occupational Hygiene and International Journal of Occupational Medicine and Environmental Health, a member of the editorial board of The Annals of Agricultural and Environmental Medicine as well as the European Journal of Inflammation. He was a founding member of Central and Eastern European Chapter of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology and a life member of the Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health. He led, and collaborated with, a number of research projects supported by Czech grant agencies and the European Commission, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, WHO, in Lyons and the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, USA. Professor Bencko's specialist activities continued throughout his last days. His primary scientific interests were biological monitoring and evaluation of health risks of human exposure to toxic metals and polyhalogenated hydrocarbons, the negative effects on human health of environmental pollution by endocrine modulators and the epidemiology of malignant tumours. The academic and scientific communities, as well as the international expert public, have lost a founder and doyen of Czechoslovak hygiene, a polyhistorian, an excellent teacher and internationally acclaimed specialist in the broad issues of health and environment; primarily, however, a good and always optimistic person, always ready to advise, a colleague, and friend. He shall be sorely missed. May he be remembered.

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