

## **Jubilee of Karel Smetana**

Prof Karel Smetana was born on 28<sup>th</sup> October 1930 in Prague, Czech Republic. He was awarded the diploma in medicine in 1955, a PhD in 1962, and DSc in 1968 at Charles University in Prague. He has worked as the head of the Laboratory for Blood Cytology Prague (1982–1984) and as the director of the Institute of Haematology and Blood Transfusion in Prague (1984–1990). Prof Smetana was appointed as the chairman of the board for postgraduate studies in cell biology and pathology at Charles University in Prague in 1995. He has also been professor at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, USA (1962–2004). He has given invitation lectures at prestigious universities and at many conferences in a number of countries. He is known for the excellence of his discourse and for the great scope and experience of his research.

Professor Smetana has been the president of the Czech Haematological Society, a member of the governors' council of the European Society of Cell Biology, and a member of the advisory board of the International Haematological Society; he is the vice-president of the Society for Histochemistry, a honorary member of the Czechoslovak Biological Society, the Czech Haematological Society and the Society for Histochemistry, and a member of the New York Academy of Science. He has lectured in Clinical Haematology at the University of South Bohemia. He was a member of the editorial boards of *Folia Haemat* and *Electron Microscopy Biol. Med.*, and is now a member of the editorial boards of *Int. Tissue React.*, *Hematology* and *J. Appl. Biomed.*

He received the State Prize of Czechoslovakia (1986), a Research Award of the Ministry of the Czech Republic (1976), the Purkyne Medal (CR 1987), the Purkyne Medal of the Czechoslovak Biological Society (1996), the Research Award of the Czech Haematological Society (twice), the Gold Medal for Veterinary Medicine (Brno, Czech Republic), the Gold Medal of the Slovak Medical Society (Bratislava, Slovakia), honorary medals of Komensky University (Bratislava, Slovakia), Palacky University (Olomouc, Czech Republic), and Masaryk University (Brno, Czech Republic); the Wilhelm Benhard Medal, Honorary Diploma of Baylor College of Medicine (Houston, USA), the Georgian Haematological Society (Tbilisi, Georgia), ABI (USA) and IBC (Great Britain), the American Medal of Honor ABI (USA) and so on.

Karel Smetana is the author of almost three hundred articles and chapters in books, mostly available in journals indexed by the most important international scientific databases. His articles are concerning general problems of cell biology, morphology the function of the nucleus and nucleolus, and the characteristics of malignant, or leukaemic cells. He is the co-author of the well-known book *The Nucleolus* (with H. Busch) and he is cited in over 1400 works (see ISI, Medline etc.).

Prof Karel Smetana is welcome among friends as a boon companion, and he has a predilection for good drink and rose hip tea. He is the father of the successful Czech scientist, Prof Karel Smetana Jr.

We would like to wish Prof Smetana further great success in his life and in his estimable scientific activities.

*Josef Berger*