

INFORMATION

Czechoslovak-Swedish-Finnish Urological Symposia held between years 1969 and 1988

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The 1960's were marked by broad cooperation between the Czechoslovak and Swedish health care system representatives. Collaboration existed not only in the context of the WHO (in areas such as common stands on main issues and unified voting on the committees), but it existed in a form of many bilateral cooperative projects. Exchange of scientific and other health care related information via bilateral symposia was initiated by medical disciplines such as neurology and neurosurgery. In response to the request from Swedish government a 30 Czech and Slovak physicians (internists, pediatricians and surgeons) were sent to Sweden to practice medicine in underserved areas. One of them was Dr. M. Duchek, he practiced and to this day lives in Umeo.

In 1965 a meeting of health care representatives from the two countries was held in Stockholm. During this meeting further possibilities for collaboration were evaluated. After consultation with Czechoslovak Ministry of Health, member of the Czechoslovak delegation and president of Czechoslovak Urological Association V. Zvara, submitted a proposal to initiate Czechoslovak-Swedish symposia which would be held alternatively in either of the countries. Swedish Urological Association supported the proposal. The support of this idea was also expressed by Prof. G. Gierz, advisor to the Swedish Ministry of Health, and as a result establishment of the regular Czechoslovak-Swedish Urological Symposia was approved by Swedish authorities.

During that time the contacts between Czechoslovak and Finnish medical institutions intensified. During SIU Congress held in Munich in 1967, informal consultation was held between representatives of Czechoslovak and Finnish urological societies, J. Elo, O. Alfthan and V. Zvara. At this meeting, inclusion of Finnish urologists into this newly established society was proposed. Significant enthusiasm was expressed by both parties and following approval from Swedish and Finnish Urological Societies, Finnish urologists were invited to join the cooperation.

The first symposium (initially planned for September, 1968) was held in Bratislava (Czechoslovakia) on May 28–30, 1969. Internationally recognized Swedish urologists such as G. Gierz, L. Andersson, L. Ljunggren, G. Jönsson, A. Fritjofsson and Finnish urologist such as J.V. Brotherus, K.J. Oravisto, O. Altfan, J. Elo were present. Number of urologists from Germany, Austria, France, Great Britain and Belgium took part in the Symposium. A large number of Czechoslovak urologists including the newly elected president of the Czechoslovak Urological Association Prof. J. Svab, professors J. Kucera, K. Uhlíř and others participated as well. Total of 128 physicians from 8 European countries participated in this Symposium. Event was organized under the auspices of the Presidium of the Slovak National Council and received a high recognition from Slovak Medical Society and Comenius University. Chancellor professor B. Cambel, president of Slovak Medical Society professor T. Niederland and professor J. Kukura the Dean of the School of Medicine were all present at the opening ceremony that was held at the Bratislava Castle (Figs 1–3).

Between years 1969 and 1988 total of seven symposia were held (3 in Czechoslovakia, 2 in Sweden and 2 in Finland) with the official languages being English and German.

1) Bratislava (Czechoslovakia), May 29–31, 1969. Venue: Castle of Bratislava. President Vladimir Zvara, Secretaries Josef Reznicek and Michal Hornak. Subjects: 1. Adenoma of prostate, 2. Carcinoma of prostate, 3. Problems of pediatric urology. May 30, there was a magnificent Garden Party at Castle of Smolenice. May 31, an Excursion to the Spa Piestany, where there were possibility to bath in the Mineral water sources. An exclusive dinner was served in the Restaurant of the Spa.

2) Lund (Sweden), April 25–26, 1972, part I. Venue: University Hospital of Lund. President: Gösta Jönsson. Subject: Bladder tumours. Stockholm (Sweden), April 28–29, 1972, part II. Together with the Annual Meeting of Swedish Society of Urol-



Fig. 1. Opening of the Symposium by the President of the Slovak Medical Society Prof. R.T. Niederland. In presidium: G. Jönsson (Göteborg), V. Zvara (Bratislava), J.V. Brotherus (Helsinki) (Bratislava, 1969).



Fig. 2. During the break in castle of Smolenice (from the left): **J. Bána** (Olomouc), **E. and Mrs. Tanagho** (San Francisco), **R. Kocvara** (Prague), **V. Zvara** (Bratislava), **J. Thüroff** (Mainz) (Smolenice, 1988).

ogy. Venue: Svenska Läkaresällskapet, Klara norra Kyrkogata 10. President: Gustav Gierz. Subjects: 1. Urinary infections, 2. Surgery of the adrenal glands, 3. Presentation of the Carolinian Hospital – Gustav Gierz. Banquet was held at the Villa of Gustav and Ulla Giertz in Djursholmen.

3) Helsinki (Finland), April 22–24, 1975. Venue: Theoretical Institute of the Medical Faculty of Helsinki. President: Prof. Olof Alfthan, Timo Lehtonen, secretary Jan Rusk. Subjects: 1. Cystitis interstitialis, 2. Bladder tumours, 3. Pediatric urolithiasis. April 22, Official Reception at the Palace Smolna, The Governmental Festival location. April 24, Banquet at the Casino Obnnäs.

4) Praha (Czechoslovakia), May 17–18, 1978. Venue: Medical House. President: Prof. E. Hradec. Subjects: 1. Renal insufficiency, 2. Substitution of urinary tract parts and organs, 3. Urolithiasis. The Welcome Party was held at Martinic-Palais where the Chamber Orchestra Harmony Group played Hora Decima by Johann Christoph Pezelius. Banquet at the Ambassador Hotel.

5) Uppsala (Sweden), June 11–12, 1981. Venue: University Hospital of Uppsala. President: Ake Fritjofsson. Subjects: 1. Haematuria, 2. Urodynamics, 3. Free communications.

6) Espoo (Finland), June 6–9, 1985, Venue: Espoo Institute of Saving Banks. President: Timo Lehtonen. Subjects: 1. Urolithiasis, 2. Bladder tumours, 3. Testicular tumours, 4. Prostatic cancer, 5. Cancer of penis and kidney, 6. Free papers. Banquet at Ms. Christina Brahe.

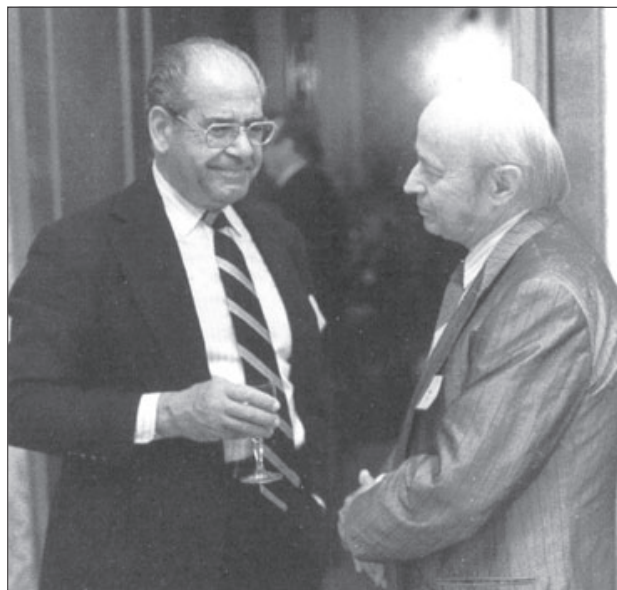


Fig. 3. Friendly contact between **E. Tanagho** (San Francisco) and **J. Elo** (Helsinki) (Smolenice, 1988).

7) Bratislava-Smolenice (Czechoslovakia), September 22–24, 1988. Venue: Smolenice Castle. President: Vladimir Zvara. Subjects: 1. Modern diagnostic and therapeutic methods in urolithiasis, 2. Testicular tumours, 3. Management of erectile disorders, 4. Miscellaneous. September 24, Dinner at Smolenice Castle.

Meetings had very high standard with the discussion often lasting past midnight. The social events such as garden party at the Smolenice Castle in Slovakia, banquet at the Villa of Gustav and Ulla Giertz in Djursholmen, reception at the Palas Smolna in Helsinki and Martinic Palais in Prague were very memorable. Many collegial friendships were founded, many of them lasting to this day, when cooperation between European urologists is fostered through European Association of Urology.

References

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INFORMATION

New diagnostic methods of parasitic diseases

Short study stay (Budapest)

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From 11th to 15th October, 2004 I visited, on the invitation of Dr. Zuzana Szenasi, the Department of Parasitology, „Johan Bela“ National Center for Epidemiology, Budapest, Hungary. During my stay I had the opportunity to get acquainted with new diagnostic methods of parasitic diseases e. g. malaria, amoebiasis, toxoplasmosis, Cryptosporidiosis and Tissue helminthiasis.

Activities of the Department of Parasitology

The Department of Parasitology, „Johan Bela“ National Center for Epidemiology was founded in 1927. Since its development, it serves as a central establishment for performing, organizing, and supervising the human parasitologic activity in Hungary. Its main activity includes the coordination and supervision of the parasitological diagnostic work of the nationwide network of the human parasitological laboratories at the Public Health Station. It serves as a central reference laboratory for the diagnostic problems connected with human parasitologic diseases. It performs confirming and verifying laboratory activities in human parasitologic and zoonotic diseases including consultative activity in human parasitology with the clinical departments. It contributes to the organization and performance of national and international parasitologic diagnostic and epidemiologic investigations. It develops and introduces new diagnostic methods and laboratory protocols for human parasitology with special regards to serological and molecular biological aspects. It performs teaching and consultative activities in the form of training courses for human parasitological laboratory specialists. It also takes part in the graduate and postgraduate teaching of students of medicine and biology including the teaching of PhD students in parasitology. The Department also performs parasitologic research work. Its main scientific interest includes the followings: 1) Laboratory diagnostics, epidemiology and immunology of toxoplasmosis, primarily the development and interpretation of serologic and molecular biologic methods as applied for Toxoplasma screening of pregnant women and their offspring. 2) Serologic, epidemiologic, and molecular biologic studies on the human parasitic infections caused by Entamoeba, Giardia, and Trichomonas. 3) Epidemiologic studies on, and confirmation of malaria infections (stained smears, immunochromatography, PCR) occurring in Hungary. 4) Epidemiologic studies on filariasis with

specia I regard of human infections caused by *Dirofilaria repens*. 5) Epidemiologic and laboratory studies on human parasitic helminth infections such as *Toxocara*, *Trichinella*, and *Echinococcus* spp. In order to perform its research activities, the Department of Parasitology has developed international collaborative contacts with institutions in abroad.

The Department of Parasitology includes the following National Reference Laboratories:

I. National Reference Laboratory for Toxoplasmosis (*Toxoplasma gondii*),

II. National Reference Laboratory for Trichomonosis (*Trichomonas vaginalis*),

III. National Reference Laboratory for Diseases Caused by Intestinal Protozoa (*Giardia lamblia*, *Entamoeba histolytica/dispar*, *Cryptosporidium parvum*),

IV. National Reference Laboratory for Human-Pathogenic „Free-living“ Amoebae (*Acanthamoeba* sp, *Naegleria fowleri*),

V. National Reference Laboratory for Intestinal Helminthoses (*Enterobius vermicularis*, *Trichuris trichiura*, *Ascaris lumbricoides*, *Ancylostoma duodenale*, *Strongyloides stercoralis*, *Taenia* sp., *Hymenolepis* sp., *Fasciola hepatica*, *Dicrocoelium dendriticum*),

VI. National Reference Laboratory for Helminthozoonoses (*Toxocara* sp., *Trichinella* sp., *Echinococcus* sp., *cysticercus cellulosae*, *Dirofilaria* sp.),

VII. National Reference Laboratory for Diseases Caused by Exotic Parasites.

I took part in annual meeting of the Hungarian Society of Parasitologists with two invited papers: Jalili, N., Halgos, J. Mosquito Control in Southwest of Slovakia; Jalili, N., Studenikova, C., Ondriska, F. “Seroprevalence of toxoplasmosis among healthy people in West Slovakia”.

Both lectures aroused considerable interest and fruitful discussion among participants. Hungarian colleagues found the papers very interesting and expressed their wish to continue in mutual collaboration in future.

Zoldi Viktor, MSc., would like to visit Comenius University (Faculties of Medicine and Sciences) this year to join Mosquito Identification Course, because some region of Hungary have also problems with mosquito prevalence.