

## 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of Assoc. Prof. RNDr. František Ondriska, PhD.



Assoc. Prof. RNDr. František Ondriska, PhD., a distinguished Slovak parasitologist is celebrating a significant anniversary – his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was born on April 3, 1952 in Kúty. After completing his secondary education in Holíč (1970) he studied biology and microbiology at the Faculty of National Sciences of the Comenius University in Bratislava (1970 – 1975). In 1981 he received his RNDr. degree at the Department of Microbiology.

Having graduated from the Faculty of Natural Sciences of CU, he started work at the District Health Station in Senica, serving as the head of the Department of Clinical Parasitology until June 1998. Since then, he has served as the Head of the Department of Parasitology at the HPL, Ltd. Laboratories in Bratislava.

Dr. Ondriska received his PhD. degree in Parasitology from the Institute of Parasitology SAS in Košice in 2001, having successfully defended his thesis titled: "Novel approaches to use of ELISA tests in diagnosis of toxoplasmosis". He habilitated in 2006, defended his thesis (again successfully), titled: "Diagnosis of selected human parasitic infections" at the Faculty of Health Care and Social Work of Trnava University and he was appointed an Assoc. Prof. His pedagogical activities are remarkable. Since 1998 he has supervised lectures and seminars in medical parasitology at the Slovak Medical University (Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Nursing and Professional Health Studies and Faculty of Public Health) and lectures and seminars in parasitology for ecologists at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of CU in Bratislava (Department of Ecology and Department of Microbiology and Virology). He has also supervised numerous PhD. students, Bc. and undergraduate students.

His prolific life has been characterized by abundant scientific, lecture and publication activities. Assoc Prof. F. Ondriska is an author and co-author of more than 230 lectures, presented at home and abroad. He authored or co-authored more than 170 studies published in scientific and

technical national and international journals and several monographs, e.g. Travel Medicine in Practice, Lexicon of Medical Parasitology and textbooks Basics of General Parasitology, Medical Parasitology, etc.

Dr. Ondriska has introduced the diagnosis of Lyme borreliosis in routine practice and published first studies on its prevalence and methods of laboratory diagnosis. He reported the first case of human dicrocoeliosis in CSSR, for the first time he diagnosed *Acanthamoeba* spp. amoebae as a causative agent of human keratitis and *Cryptosporidium hominis*, as a causative agent of human cryptosporidiosis in Slovakia. He has been involved in the diagnosis of two out of four cases of human dicrocoeliosis in Slovakia. Dr. Ondriska has paid a special attention to methodological activities primarily in the diagnosis of toxoplasmosis. Especially his studies on the contribution of the complement-fixation reactions for the toxoplasmosis diagnosis and creation of diagnostic algorithms for different patients groups are invaluable. He authored the Professional Guidelines for the diagnosis of toxoplasmosis, which were enacted by the Ministry of Health SR in October 2006 as a mandatory document for the diagnosis of toxoplasmosis in Slovakia. And last but not least, he has developed and introduced a method for diagnosis of parasitic infections of the eye, in particular the ocular forms of toxocariasis and toxoplasmosis.

Dr. Ondriska has actively acted as a member of various scientific societies, he is the long-term vice-chairman of Slovak Parasitological Society at SAS, the member of the Slovak Society of Clinical Microbiology and Slovak Society of Infectiologists, the member of the Expert group of MH SR for assessment of prevalence and monitoring of harmful insects. He sits on the Editorial Boards of three scientific journals. His many important contributions to the scientific community have been recognized by, amongst others, the medal of Prof. Hovorka, the medal of Stanislav Prowázka, the silver medal of Slovak Medical Society (SMS), and the Best Publication Award of the Slovak Medical Society.

Dedication, determination and diligence are some of the unique characteristics of Assoc Prof. F. Ondriska, who can represent with dignity Slovak parasitologists within national and international scientific community. With his proverbial kindness, selflessness, modesty and zeal he set an example for us all.

On the occasion of his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, it is a great honour and joy for us to wish Assoc. Prof. RNDr. František Ondriska, PhD. many more returns of the day. May love, enthusiasm, health and prosperity follow you always.

AD MULTOS ANNOS

Jozef Halgoš

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