

Our professor!

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*This summer, professor MUDr. Stanislav Trojan, DrSc. (Fig. 1)
was celebrating the 70th anniversary of his birthday.*

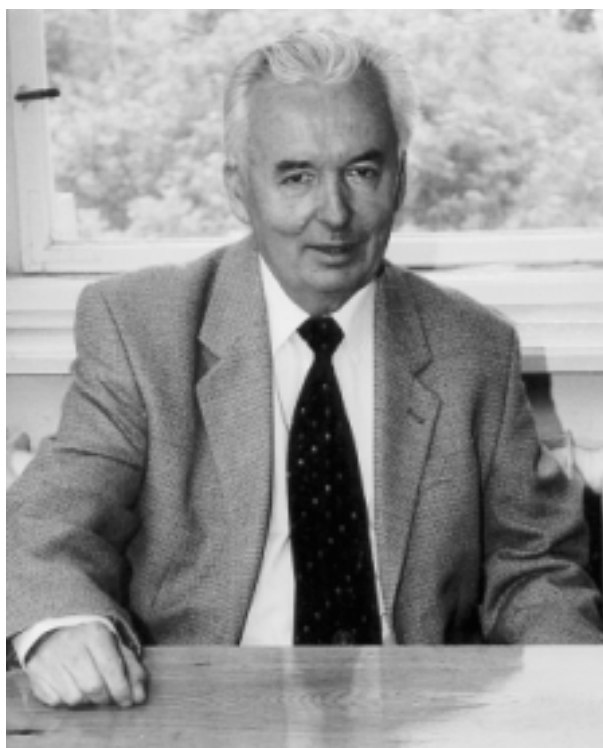
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Characteristics of the honouree

Neurophysiologist, university teacher, scientist and science administrator, for many years the head of the Institute of Physiology of the First Faculty of Medicine in Prague, repeatedly elected Chairman of the Czech Physiological Society of the Czech Medical Association of Jan Evangelista Purkyně, diligent publicist popularising the science, laureate of several awards, social person with enviable memory and ability of anticipation, planning and conceptual work, and also active sportsmen, football player and supporter.

Neurophysiologists

Already as a medical student – voluntary worker – he became a member of the Neuroontogenetic School in Prague – Albertov (together with Mysliveček, Jílek, Mourek, Sedláček and others). They understand neuroontogenesis not only as a methodological approach, but also as a general concept of the research work, which can bring an optimisation of individual brain development. In the nineties he wrote: “We understand neuroontogenesis as a chance of the genetic program to build optimal structure and function of the brain. From the point of view of the neuroontogenetic research it means to reveal principles of development, including the role of modulating and determining factors”.



*Fig. 1 – Prof. Stanislav Trojan, MD., DSc.
* August 16, 1934*

University teacher

For the whole life he likes to be a teacher; probably thanks to the inherited talent from his mother. He takes his teaching as a complex activity, which is precisely aimed at the level of students, bringing the selected topic in the adequate form (“from the chalk and blackboard to the dataprojection”). To characterise it, let us borrow the words from professor Schreiber’s supporting opinion to the nomination of our honouree to the professorship: “Professor Trojan conducts his pedagogic activity with love and in a high level. Namely his ability to write textbooks should be appreciated.” At present, professor Trojan is the author or co-author of several tens of lecture notes and the principal author of six textbooks, regularly renewed and reedited (the newest textbook was published in 2003 as the fourth edition).

Scientist

Research in the field of brain function became his life-long assignment. The best characteristic we borrow from professor Charvát’s opinion to the doctoral dissertation of our honouree from 1978: “...Professor Trojan was mostly interested in the neonatal period. He compared reaction of immature tissue of new-borns with the adult material, revealing the conditions and periods when an adaptation is possible, what is the mechanism of its development and what are the factors, which can influence it. Major recent achievement of his scientific insight is the theory of neuroplasticity, published with J. Pokorný in 1999, and which they have been further elaborated.

Neuroplasticity he understands as manifestation of the dynamism of the nerve system, which is based on structural, metabolic and functional changes of neuronal circuits. Plasticity represents the major mechanisms of organisation and reorganisation of neuronal connections during development, in adulthood and senescence and also during the recovery from an impairment.

Extent of his scientific work confirms more than 700 publications in journals, monographs and other papers. Writing is his natural need (he still writes all concepts in ink on various pieces of paper).

Science administrator

Our honouree is known for his conceptual thinking. It helps him to plan scientific projects, prepare multi-page grant proposals, organise scientific meetings (including presidentship of big events like the European IUPS congress in 1991 and second FEPS congress in 1999), govern scientific committees (e.g. two periods in the Council of Universities, chairman of the committee for doctoral dissertations, Scientific Committee of the Ministry of Health). Scientific discoveries he can successfully present to the general public. It includes repeated publications of his “Somatology” or images of “Human Biology”. Together with Dr. Schreiber he published “Atlas of Human Biology”, which was

rewarded in 2002 with the Award of the Ministry of Culture. Recently he prepares wallpapers in the similar topics.

Head of the Institute

The staff was lucky when our honouree took the position of the Head of the Institute fatally open after the professor Jílek's death. He became the intellectual continuator of professor Jílek's neuroontogenetic school, which he has further developed. The working atmosphere, which professor Trojan created, brought its fruits. During his chairmanship ten associated professors and five professors were appointed. His virtuous administration was relieved by occasional culinary meeting and sport competitions (high reputation had football matches between men and women of the Institute, later on namely table-tennis tournaments, which despite the effort of younger Institute members he keeps on winning).

Congratulation

Hitherto life of our honouree has been filled with diligent and successful work. To his next work (nobody doubts it will continue) we wish him good health, optimism and endurance.

Ad multos annos!