

105th Birth Anniversary of Professor František Pór, M.D.

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Abstract: Professor František Pór, M.D., was one of the most remarkable physicians in Czechoslovakia. He graduated at the German Medical Faculty of Charles University in Prague, in 1926. He was a founder of the First Internal Clinic of the Medical Faculty of P. J. Šafárik University and of the Faculty Hospital in Košice. Prof. F. Pór, M.D., was the Head of the First Internal Clinic from 1948 until 1971. During his active professional life he educated 11 associate professors and 3 full professors. He was also a founder of Eastern Slovakian Medical Meetings in Nový Smokovec, the High Tatras, in 1961. The “Memorial Meeting of Professor F. Pór, M.D.” has been organized by the Medical Society in Košice since 1994. The last one was held in the Faculty Hospital of L. Pasteur in Košice, on April 28, 2003.

Key words: Professor F. Pór, M.D. – Well-known Slovak physician – Founder of the Internal Clinic in Košice and of Eastern Slovakian Medical Meetings – Nový Smokovec – the High Tatras – Slovak Republic.

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We commemorate the 105th birth anniversary of Prof. F. Pór, M.D., who graduated at the German Medical Faculty of Charles University in Prague [1], (Fig. 1). After the World War II Prof. F. Pór, M.D., did an extraordinary work in internal medicine. He was the founder and the first Head of the Internal Clinic and was appointed the first Head of Department of Medicine at the newly founded Medical Clinic in Košice.

Professor F. Pór, M.D., was born in Zvolen on April 15, 1899 as the ninth child of a clerk. He was educated at the Elementary School and later at the Secondary Grammar School in Budapest where he passed his leaving examination on June 18, 1917. He took the advanced level of leaving examination in Košice, on December 10, 1917. In 1918 he became a medical student at the faculty of Medicine in Budapest, Hungary. Prof. F. Pór's family repatriated to the ČSR in 1920 and that is why he continued in his study at the German Medical Faculty of Charles University in Prague where he graduated on February 6, 1926. From February 7, 1926 he became an external physician at the Third Internal Clinic of German Medical Faculty of the Charles University in Prague with Prof. Jaksch, later at the Second Internal Clinic with Prof. Nonnenbruch where he became a houseman in 1930 and the fourth clinical assistant in the same year [1]. He worked here until 1932. He was especially concerned in scientific research and this led him to make next study at various foreign workplaces. He took part in educational stays at the Internal Clinic of Prof. Bergman in Berlin, with Prof. Naegeli in Zürich (1931), at the Internal Clinics in Göttingen and others. He repeatedly presented the results of his research activity at the Medical Society in Prague and at the foreign congresses and conferences.

Because he didn't have the possibility of habilitation with Prof. Nonnenbruch in Prague [2], he worked as the Head of Internal and Pulmonary Department of the Public City Hospital in Ružomberok since October 1, 1932 [3]. He had worked there until he was dismissed from the work because of racial reasons on April 1, 1940. He was determined to work in Nové Mesto n/Váhom where he was a private physician till January 26, 1945. At this time he was captured together with his wife by Gestapo and they both were deported to the concentration camp to Sered' and later to Terezín. They were liberated by the Soviet Army on May 8, 1945. On July 3,

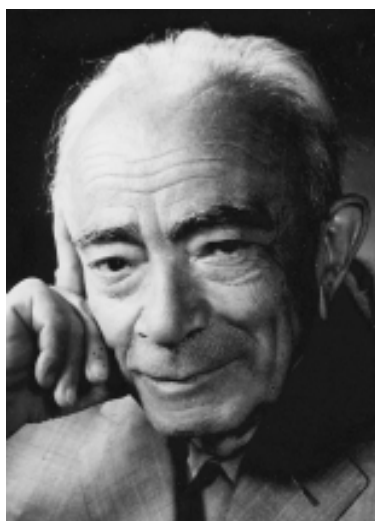


Fig. 1– Prof. František Pór, M.D.
* April 15, 1899, † September 8, 1980

1945 Prof. F. Pór, M.D., started his work as the Head of Internal Department of the State Hospital in Košice. He was appointed to run the Internal Clinic from October 1, 1948. The Clinic was established at the new founded Medical Faculty in Košice. He ran the First Internal Clinic until 1971. After he had retired he continued in his medical work and activity for many years. He came to the clinic almost every day. Professor F. Pór, M.D., died in Košice on September 8, 1980 at the age of 81.

Prof. F. Pór, M.D., was appointed an associate professor of internal medicine on April 1, 1948. The internal clinic became later under his direction a significant part of clinical medicine in Slovakia. In his work Prof. F. Pór, M.D., gave a special emphasis on the selection of his colleagues and co-workers. In this way he wanted to improve the medical care in internal medicine in the Eastern Slovakia and to develop a scientific research activity at the Medical Faculty in Košice.

In following years he was very busy and despite various troubles he continued in his research. He devoted himself to the problems of ethiopathogenesis of diabetes insipidus, disorders of water and electrolyte metabolism, congestive heart failure, metabolism of corticosteroids, disorders of circulation and respiration and in the last period of his life also arteriosclerosis. He published over 40 scientific papers at home and in foreign journals.

He continued in his research activity and he helped to form various partial divisions of internal medicine at the Internal Clinic in Košice (cardiology, nephrology, haematology, rheumatology, gastroenterology and others). Associate professor F. Pór, M.D., was appointed a full professor for the internal medicine in 1961.

His organizing activities were numerous. He worked as a vice-dean of the Medical Faculty and as a President of the General Section of the Czechoslovak Medical Society of J. E. Purkyně in Košice and he was one of the founders of traditional Eastern Slovakian Medical Meetings in Nový Smokovec, in the High Tatras, which has been held till nowadays. Prof. F. Pór, M.D., was a long-term member of the Scientific Council of the Ministry of Health for internal medicine and a member of Advisory Council of the chief internist of the ČSSR, a member of the Central Commission for effective pharmacotherapy at the Ministry of Health. He worked as a regional internist of the Eastern Slovakian Region and was active as a member of attests commissions, a chairman of commission for PhD thesis, a member of the Advisory Council of Internal Department of the Institute of Postgraduate Medicine, a member of the Academic Council of the Medical Faculty and others. He was awarded by J. E. Purkyně Medal (1961) and by the Order of Labour (1969).

Prof. F. Pór, M.D., was one of the outstanding leaders in internal medicine in Slovakia. As all his friends well know, he was a very warm and rather modest person to his friends and patients. He had got a sense of humour. His interests extended into many areas. He was deeply interested in culture, and all these features were an accompanying sign of his fruitful life. He educated five associate

professors of internal medicine, several Ph. D. scientific workers and many head physicians who worked in the region of the Eastern Slovakia, in Slovakia and also abroad.

Prof. F. Pór, M.D., on the basis of his own intuition and long-term experiences could choose his own colleagues and co-workers and was able to evaluate their next growth. He had a great sense for laboratory work, which was completed also by work in the clinical laboratories. Due to this fact he founded biochemical, haematological and nephrological laboratories at the Internal Clinic. From the first two over-mentioned laboratories became later central laboratories.

The Nephrological laboratory is still working as a part of the Nephrological Clinic. In 1966 Prof. F. Pór, M.D., had a significant contribution to the foundation and opening of the first dialysis center at the Internal Clinic. The second and enlarged dialysis center began with its activity in 1970, shortly before he retired.

It is well known that Prof. F. Pór, M.D., had a good relation to other divisions of clinical medicine, especially to those, which were closely connected with internal medicine. It was he who established also X-ray center at the Internal Clinic.

After Prof. F. Pór, M.D., leaving from his active life and finally also after his death

in 1980, his direct students and their disciples continued in his educational work. It is necessary to say that Prof. F. Pór, M.D., established the Internal Medical School in the Eastern Slovakia.

The number of associate professors rose to eleven. Three of his co-workers became full professors of internal medicine and 5 of them were appointed Heads of the Internal Clinics.

On April 14, 1994 on the occasion of his 95th



Fig. 2 – Commemorative Letter, awarded to Professor F. Pór, M.D., in memoriam on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of foundation of the Faculty Hospital of L. Pasteur in Košice on December 9, 1994

birthday, the first Memorial Meeting of Prof. F. Pór, M.D., was organized by the Medical Society in Košice. Several of his co-workers presented their papers at the meeting. A memorial tablet was unveiled to the left of the main entrance at the 6th pavilion of the Faculty Hospital of L. Pasteur. It commemorates life's work of Prof. F. Pór, M.D., the founder of the First Internal Clinic of the Faculty Hospital and of the Medical Faculty of University of P. J. Šafárik in Košice. The academic sculptor A. Račko was the author of this Commemorative Tablet. Prof. F. Pór, M.D., was awarded in memoriam with a "Commemorative Letter" by the director of the Faculty Hospital of L. Pasteur in Košice on December 9, 1994. It occurred on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of foundation of the Faculty Hospital of L. Pasteur in Košice – State Hospital in those days (Fig. 2). On April 9, 1996 the third Memorial of Prof. F. Pór, M.D., was held. The auditorium of the Fourth Internal Clinic of the Faculty Hospital of L. Pasteur in Košice, 43 Rastislavova Street was named as a lecture-hall of Prof. F. Pór, M.D. [4]. Prof. F. Pór, M.D., was working in the same building during his stay in Košice.

On September 15, 1998 Prof. F. Pór, M.D., was awarded in memoriam with a "Commemorative Letter" by the Dean of the Medical Faculty of University of P. J. Šafárik for his contribution to the development of the faculty, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Medical Faculty of University of P. J. Šafárik in Košice (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3 – Commemorative Letter awarded to Professor F. Pór, M.D., in memoriam on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of foundation of the Medical Faculty of the University of P. J. Šafárik in Košice on September 15, 1998

The Medical Society in Košice organized the Memorial Meeting of Prof. F. Pór, M.D., every year in April in order to remind one of the most outstanding and remarkable Slovak internist. The programme of the 10th Memorial Meeting of Prof. F. Pór, M. D., included the memorial paper of K. Derzsiová et al.: Vitamin E and antioxidant defence parameters in haemodialyzed patients – three-month study. In the second part were on other 3 papers of Prof. F. Pór, M.D., contemporaries: J. Jarčuška: Prof. F. Pór, M.D., and Eastern Slovakian Ironworks, E. Hlodinková: Autotransfusion in the Faculty Hospital of L. Pasteur, P. Mizla and A. Gočalová: Cardiovascular complications in chronic renal failure – from the point of view of nephrologist. Every year the memorial ceremony for Prof. F. Pór, M.D., in the grove of urns at the Public Cemetery in Košice preceded the Memorial Meeting.

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