

**DIRECTOR OF THE IMG
CORDIALLY CONGRATULATES**

Professor Josef Říman

on the occasion of his 85th birthday

Josef Říman served as Director of IMG (1977-1991) and President of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (1985-1989). He established IMG (from the former Institute of Experimental Biology and Genetics and several biochemical laboratories of the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry) in its present form and under the present name.

Professor Říman deserves appreciation for his successful efforts to enhance Czechoslovak science in general and IMG in particular. Many of us are thankful to him for his support of research stays abroad, which was not easy during the difficult times before 1989.

His major scientific contributions were from the field of biochemistry of retroviruses, namely discovery of reverse transcriptase (*J. Říman and G.S. Beaudreau, Viral DNA-Dependent DNA Polymerase and the Properties of Thymidine-Labelled Material in Virions of an Oncogenic Virus. Nature (London) 228, 427-430 (1970); M. Travnicek and J. Říman, Occurrence of Aminoacyl-tRNA-synthetases in an RNA Oncogenic Virus. Nature New Biol. 241, 60-62 (1973).*)

Professor Říman was awarded a number of prizes and honors, including:

- **J.E. Purkynje Medal (1978)** “For Merits in Medical Cancer Research”
- **Czechoslovak State Prize for Science (1969)** “For Contributions to the Biochemistry of Hematopoietic Cells and Tissues”
- **Czechoslovak State Prize for Science (1977)** “For Contributions to the Biochemistry of the Retroviruses”
- **The State Prize of Sciences of the Soviet Union (SU)** (together with V.A. Engelhardt and L.L. Kisselev) “For Contributions to the Project Obratnaja Transcriptasa (Revertase)”