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The Institute is the successor of the Central Institute of Chemistry founded in 1950, which was incorporated into the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in 1953. After the division of the Academy's Institute of Chemistry, the larger part became known as the Academy's Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry. Pursuant to Act No. 341/2005 Coll., the Institute became a public research institution as of 1 January 2007.

The Institute traditionally combines organic chemistry with the fields of biology and medicine.

The main fields of research are: Medicinal chemistry, directed at chemotherapy for life-threatening and malignant diseases (antimetabolites, hormone analogues, antiviral and anticancer drugs). Also, chemical relationships between living objects in nature, concentrated on environmentally non-detrimental and necessary human interventions in nature. And finally synthetic approaches aimed at developing new organic functional materials with compartments of nanometer size (conducting and half-conducting materials, supramolecular self-assemblies).

These central themes are extended to include theoretical research on the chemical principles of the interrelation in living cells (enzyme catalysis, isolation and investigation of key enzymes in cell metabolism and their natural [protein] or synthetic inhibitors), physico-chemical methods of studying these relationships and their theoretical modelling.

The Institute publishes the English-language journal, *Collection of Czecho-slovak Chemical Communications*, founded in 1929.

More detailed information about the organisational structure of the Institute and its research and specialised units can be found at the following URL:

http://www.uochb.cas.cz