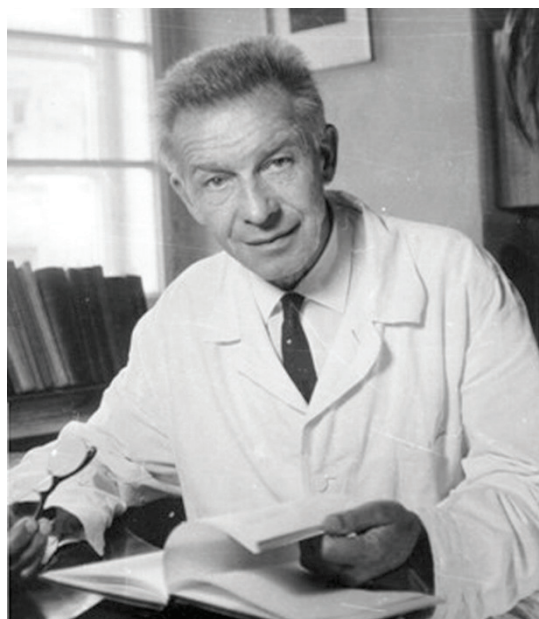


Institute of Endocrinology

60th Anniversary



Doc. MUDr. Karel Šilink, DrSc.
Founder of the Institute

Dear Readers,

This special Supplement is dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the Institute of Endocrinology in Prague, Czech Republic.

Let me briefly introduce the jubilee. The Institute of Endocrinology has a specific position amongst health-care facilities that fall within competence of the Ministry of Health.

Professor Karel Šilink was the founding father of the Institute (originally the Research Institute of Endocrinology). He was one of the first pioneers of modern Czech endocrinology, nuclear medicine and medical cybernetics as well. His team dealt with endemic thyroid disorders research and iodine deficiency mapping. Their work results helped to introduce measures leading to endemic goitre eradication and to significant reduction of iodine deficiency in the Czech Republic. Prof. Šilink foresaw the use of radioisotopes in medicine, namely the application of radioiodine for thyreopathies diagnostics

and treatment and he pursued an implementation of these procedures into clinical practice. Since the 1950s the Institute of Endocrinology has undergone a very dynamic development, gradually expanding its activities both in medical care and in research.

The Institute has had the good fortune to attract outstanding experts who worked or still work there. The great personalities of Czech endocrinology, diabetology, obesitology and osteology include Prof. Luboslav Stárka, Prof. Václav Zamrazil, Prof. Jaroslav Blahoš, Prof. Jan Němec, Dr. Jara Nedvídková, Prof. Karel Vondra, Dr. Pavel Štolba, Prof. Richard Hampl, Prof. Ivana Žofková, Prof. Karel Pacák, Doc. Vojtěch Hainer, Prof. Marie Kunešová and excellent analysts like Ing. Petr Hušek, Ing. Martin Hill and many others.

Generations of such enthusiasts have succeeded in developing a unique medical facility that is renowned for its excellence in specialized medical and diagnostic care and for its outstanding scientific research results. It is a sought-after training center for students and junior

doctors. The management of the Institute has always tried to reflect the state-of-the-art of global trends in the field.

The Institute of Endocrinology has been continuously implementing research and developmental activities since its inception in 1957. It has been a thematically profiled workplace for many years. Its research focuses on the study of pathogenesis, the improvement of diagnostics and treatment of endocrinopathies, diabetes and obesity. The field of endocrinology is also increasingly affecting oncology, neurology and immunology. Genetic causes of endocrine disorders and tumors are the subject of many intensive studies. The topical theme in recent years has been research into endocrine disruptors – substances that interfere with hormonal communication between cells and deteriorate especially the reproductive functions.

Since the 1990s, when the grant system was introduced in the Czech Republic, 230 projects have been carried out by the Institute, including 10 international ones (Horizon 2020, Diogenes, ESFD, WHO, Norwegian Funds, 3x COST, 2x CONTACT). Three of them were supported by the European funds (OPGA, 2 OPPC), 30 constituted basic research projects (GA CR), 167 concerned applied research projects (IGA of the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic, AZV CR, etc.), there were also 5 research intention projects supporting the Development of the Research

Organization and 15 commercial projects. The output has been 50-90 publications per year, more than one third of which in international impact journals (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed>). We participated in 4 patent registrations.

The evaluation of the project results has been overwhelmingly excellent and our research outcomes have been awarded many times (eight Prizes of the Ministry of Health, two of them in 2016 – B. Bendlová *et al.* and H. Zamrazilová *et al.*). Our young researchers also have received many awards, both at home and abroad.

At present our research teams focus on the study of steroid hormones and proteofactors, molecular genetics causes of endocrinopathies, obesity, diabetes and immunoendocrine diseases. On the occasion of our jubilee, we are pleased to present you with a set of publications that document the various research topics which we are dealing with. You can find nine peer reviewed articles and eight original publications. I believe that our themes will be of great interest to you.

Finally, I would like to wish the Institute of Endocrinology a lot of success and satisfaction in fulfilling the challenging tasks that lie ahead.

Běla Bendlová
Director of the Institute of Endocrinology