

Prof. MUDr. Maxmilián Wenke, DrSc., FCMA is Ninety



Photo: Daniel Horák

The development of pharmacology in Czechoslovakia in the second half of the last century is inseparably connected with the personality of Prof. Wenke. He initiated several ground-breaking trends in our experimental pharmacology and he influenced education of pharmacology of one generation of the students of medicine. Max Wenke was born on the 9th September 1926 in west Bohemia in Klatovy. He graduated at the Medical Faculty of the Charles University in Prague in 1950, presently named as the First Faculty of Medicine. Already during his studies, he was interested in experimental work at the laboratory of Prof. Josef Charvát and at the Institute of Pharmacology. He defended his Ph.D. degree in 1955 and five years later he was appointed to lead the Institute of Pharmacology after the death of Prof. Bohumil Polák. At that time he was the youngest head of the department at the Medical Faculty. He successfully led the Institute of Pharmacology for 35 years. Prof. Wenke was nominated as a Full Professor of Pharmacology in 1965. The young representative of our oldest pharmacological institution has shown his scientific visions soon, while he began to study drug-receptor interactions and drug-induced metabolic changes. He was one of the first representatives of our pharmacological school, who quantitatively

evaluated drug effects using pharmacon-receptor interactions. Prof. Wenke successfully continued with this activity during the study stays abroad in Mainz (Germany) and in Philadelphia (USA). He applied his scientific expertise and created a research team focused on substances acting on the autonomic nervous system. He has published more than 150 scientific papers and headed Pharmacological institute until 1990, when he retired. One of the exceptional abilities of Prof. Wenke is his art of teaching. He was not only an excellent lecturer, but also the author of almost thirty pharmacological textbooks and lecture notes. He was also the editor of the nationally used pharmacology textbooks. After retiring he served as a consultant at the Psychiatric Clinic and Department of Pathological Physiology of the 1st Faculty of Medicine in Prague. He also translated several foreign pharmacological textbooks into the Czech language. The 90th birthday celebrations of Prof. Wenke are an exceptional occasion to express our sincere thanks for all that he has done for the Czech pharmacology and medical education and we wish him all the best and good health.

Ondřej Slanař, František Perlík