

**“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap
but by the seed that you plant.”**

Robert Louis Stevenson

Guest Editors Introductory Words

Dear readers,

In February 2020 the city of Martin became again after 12 years the venue of a joint meeting of the Czech Physiological Society and the Slovak Physiological Society. It appears to be the ideal place as it has a resounding history – Martin has been Slovak cultural and historical centre since the 19th century. Several cultural institutions have been established here, moreover, in 1918 the Martin Declaration, which significantly contributed to the formation of common historical events of our both nations, was signed here.

The 96th Physiological days were organized by Jessenius Faculty of Medicine, Comenius University. Over time we understood, how lucky we had been to be able to meet in person. Just to shake hands, to drink a cup of coffee together and to read emotions from our unmasked faces, not just from our eyes. It was one of the last meetings organized before coronavirus locked us in the virtual world.

Physiological Days is an event perceived as a holiday of the experts in the field of physiology and related sciences. In 2020 this meeting hosted 146 registered participants, 112 from Slovakia and 34 from Czech Republic. Sixty-one oral communications and 67 posters were presented and some of them became a part of this supplement.

The programme started with the honorary Purkyně lecture given by Daniela Ostatnikova on testosterone and autism. Pedagogical Antal’s lecture was presented by Daniela Mokra on acute lung injury. Both topics appear as a part of this issue as review articles. Lecture on hot topic in science was given by Iveta Bernatova on biological activity of (-)-epicatechin, which was published previously in other journal and has been recently awarded the prize of Slovak Physiological Society for best publication. In total, 4 review articles, 11 original papers and one short communication make up the content of supplement.

It is too early to say when and how the next Physiological Days will take place, but we all hope to meet face-to-face. We are really looking forward.

Many thanks go to all contributors, to the great job performed by reviewers, Editorial Board and technical assistance who made this special issue of Physiological Research possible.

On behalf of the organizers of 96th Physiological Days
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