

Advances in Antimicrobial
and Antineoplastic Chemotherapy

Volume I/1

Advances in Antimicrobial and Antineoplastic Chemotherapy

Progress in Research and Clinical Application

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of Chemotherapy Prague, 1971

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Opening Address

The history of Chemotherapy is marked by three significant milestones:

1. Its introduction by Ehrlich,
2. Its modern era which opened with the discovery of penicillin, and
3. The establishment of the International Society of Chemotherapy (ISC).

Since the first milestones are now so well known, I would like to make a brief review of the history of the ISC.

In a resolution adopted in Tokyo in 1969 by the Executive Committee of the ISC, chemotherapy was defined for the purposes of the Society as a field of science concerned with: "...all problems pertaining to the discovery, production, properties, modes and mechanisms of action and clinical uses of drugs whatever their origin that are actually or potentially capable of therapeutic activity in parasitic or neoplastic diseases of man and animals..."

This wide range of interests motivated the establishment of this Society with the object of encouraging and promoting an international rapprochement between scientists of related disciplines and professional backgrounds. Each of the past Congresses is associated in our memory with the city in which the Society sponsored it:

- 1959 — Geneva — a city with a great international tradition and the headquarters of the World Health Organization.
- 1961 — Naples — in the warmth of Italian hospitality,
- 1963 — Stuttgart — where there was impressive international participation,
- 1965 — Washington, D. C. — at a joint meeting with the annual Interscience Conference,
- 1967 — Vienna — a city with great cultural traditions,
- 1969 — Tokyo — where distance presented no problems in this jet-age of rapid communications.

All these Congresses helped the cause of chemotherapy in one way or another and were landmarks in the history of the Society.

Today, Prague is the site of the Seventh International Congress of Chemotherapy. The Czechoslovak Society of Chemotherapy deeply appreciates this distinction and welcomes all the participants in the Congress which is being held under the patronage of the President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

This is not the first time that Prague has played host to an international meeting dealing with matters of chemotherapy. In 1959 and 1964 International Congresses on Antibiotics were held here with great success.

Both of these meetings were presided over by the late Professor Miloš Herold, Director of the Research Institute of Antibiotics. The Czechoslovak Society of Chemotherapy will always remember his contribution to the development of antibiotics and will long regret his premature death in the most productive period of his life.

As an historical emblem of the International Society of Chemotherapy, the Ministry of Health of the Czech Socialist Republic is presenting the plaque to the President of the Society. It is proposed that it should be moved from Congress to Congress to be displayed as a perpetual reminder of past Congresses and an inspiration for even better future meetings.

Each host city of our past Congresses had an atmosphere and character of its own. Prague, the capital of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, is in itself a synthesis of the old and the new.

Its many cultural and artistic treasures of the past symbolize its contribution to the cultural heritage of the world. Its present and future contributions will, we hope, add to the international pool of scientific knowledge.

In the context of Prague's history, may I now call your attention to this Hall which, in itself represents a landmark in Czech and world culture.

Seventy five years ago, the then newly-founded Czech Philharmonic Orchestra played works by Dvořák under the baton of the composer himself. One of these works was his New World Symphony. Allow me then to open this Congress with the main theme of the fourth movement of this symphony.

P. Málek

President of the Congress

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