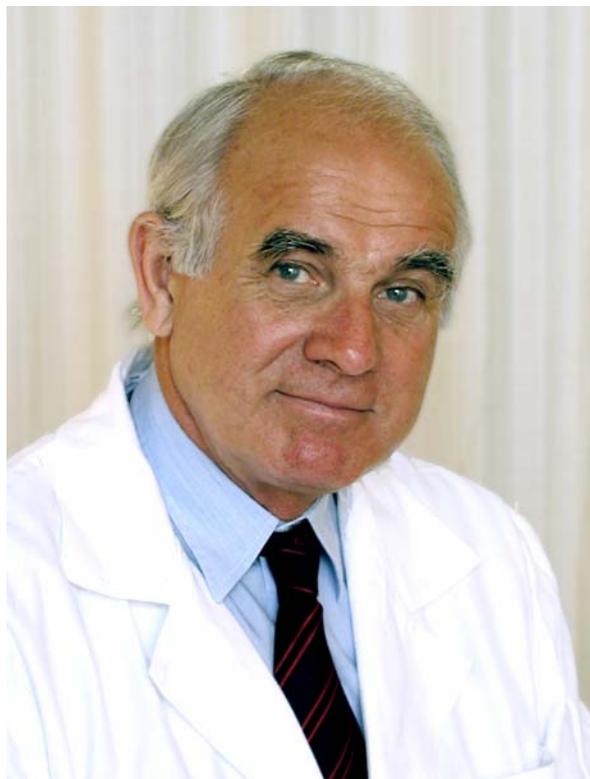


Seventieth Birthday Anniversary of Professor Bohuslav Ošťádal



Professor Bohuslav Ošťádal, MD, PhD, DSc, a distinguished Czech cardiovascular physiologist, celebrated his seventieth birthday on January 28, 2010. He was born in Moravian town Zlín in a family of physician, but he spent most of his life in Prague. His university education started in 1957 at the Faculty of Pediatric Medicine of the Charles University in Prague where he graduated in 1963. Already during undergraduate studies, he took part in research and teaching at the Department of Pathological Physiology where he continued his subsequent studies towards a PhD. His supervisor and admired mentor, Professor Otakar Poupa, greatly influenced his professional life and was an example to him not only of a scientist and teacher. In 1966, he joined the Institute of Physiology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (now Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic), being appointed Chair of the Department of Developmental Cardiology two years later. Professor Ošťádal, familiar as Boja for his colleagues and friends, remained loyal to this institution during his entire scientific carrier.

Since the very beginning, Boja's main area of research has been focused on the ontogenetic development of heart structure and function. Already his early experimental studies on developing coronary circulation belong to landmark papers in the field that achieved well-deserved attention. His laboratory was among the first to demonstrate the important ontogenetic differences in cardiac sensitivity to various pharmacological agents. In a series of papers he investigated developmental changes in myocardial responses to acute oxygen deprivation, mechanisms of increased ischemic tolerance of the immature heart, and protective effects of preconditioning and chronic hypoxia. He has also been deeply concerned with late cardiovascular consequences of risk factors acting during early phases of ontogenetic development, the phenomenon known as fetal programming. Recently, he became particularly interested in differences of ischemic tolerance between hearts of males and females, the topic which appears to gain increasing attention of both experimental and clinical cardiologists.

In addition to his long-life position in the Academy of Sciences as a research institution, Boja has been very active in teaching pathophysiology at the 2nd Medical Faculty of the Charles University in Prague for more than 40 years. As an excellent and popular lecturer, he influenced several generations of Czech physicians and researchers. In 1992, he was appointed Full Professor of Normal and Pathological Physiology.

Boja also became deeply involved in the organization of cardiovascular research and education on both national and international scale. He was among founding members of the Committee of Experimental Cardiology which has organized annual scientific meetings of Czech and Slovak researchers and clinicians continuously since 1972. In the early period of transformation after 1989, he served for five years as a director of the Institute of Physiology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. In 2000, he created Centre for Cardiovascular Research based on a project involving more than 100 researchers from several theoretical and clinical institutions in Prague. He still works as a principal investigator of the Centre emphasizing the necessity of a tight collaboration between experimental research and clinical practice for the progress of cardiovascular medicine. In addition, he is the President of the Executive Committee of the Postgraduate Education in Biomedicine at the Charles University in Prague and a member of several scientific boards. He also served as a Council member of the International Society for Heart Research and President of the European Section of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences. Boja was the main organizer of many local and international scientific conferences, the

biggest one and the most successful being the World Congress of the International Society for Heart Research in 1995, which is still remembered with joy by its participants. For many years he served as the Editor-in-Chief of Physiological Research; currently he is the Editor-in-Chief of Experimental and Clinical Cardiology and a member of Editorial Boards of another five journals.

Boja has published 190 full peer-reviewed papers, two books, more than 60 book chapters and edited another three books. He has delivered many invited lectures and seminars at national and international conferences, universities and institutes. He is a Fellow of the International Society for Heart Research and the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences and has received numerous awards and distinctions from scientific societies in recognition of his achievements and services.

I used the opportunity to join Boja's team shortly after completing my PhD. I have always considered a great privilege to have the possibility of working with him since then for almost three decades. He has taken particular care in maintaining creative atmosphere, democratic attitude and friendly relationships among all members of his team. I firmly believe that we will profit from his wisdom and enjoy his friendship for many more years.

František Kolář
Institute of Physiology
Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic