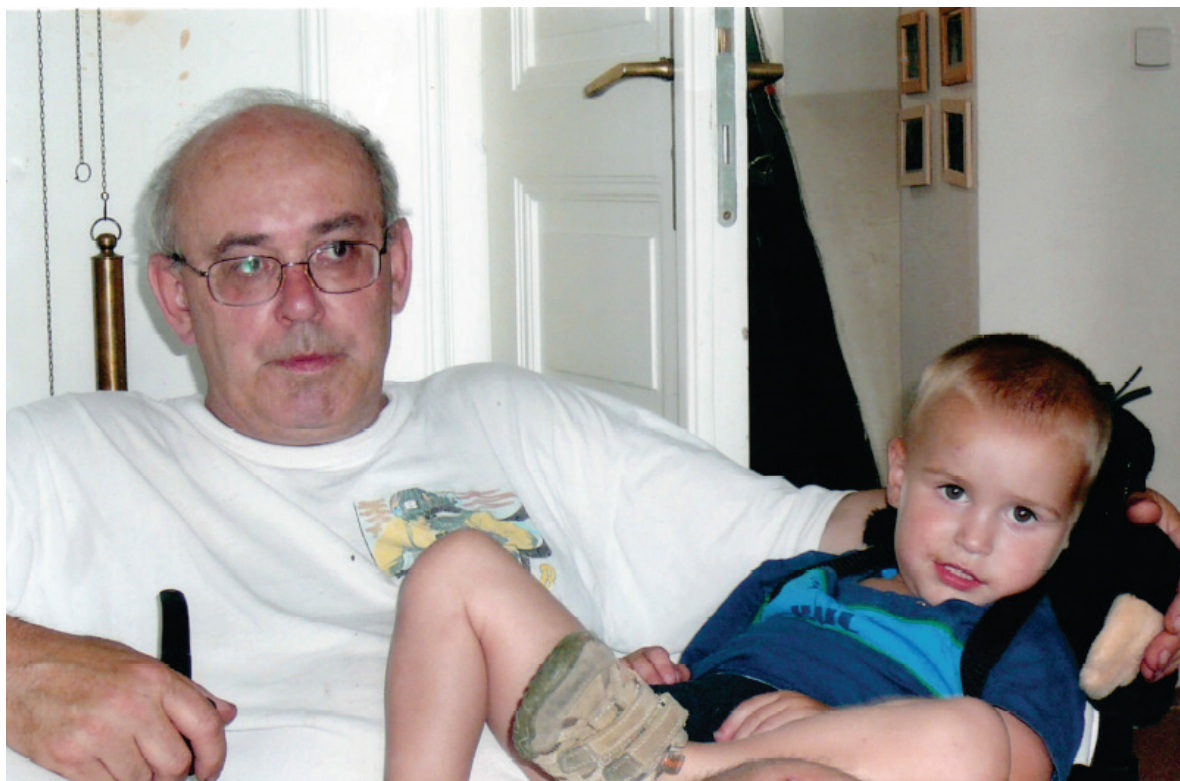


Obituary:

Prof. Jan Herget, MD, DSc



In mid-March, we learned the sad news that Professor Jan Herget had passed away shortly before his 74th birthday.

He developed his lifelong interest in experimental physiology already as a student to follow a trajectory from physiology of breathing during exercise, through myocardial contractility, to eventually explore various aspects of the pulmonary circulation. He made a major contribution to elucidating the mechanisms of hypoxic pulmonary hypertension, earning him the Robert Grover Prize awarded by the American Thoracic Society. His other accomplishments include the founding of the Institute of Physiology of the 2nd Medical Faculty, Charles University in Prague, involvement in the launching and operation of a postgraduate doctoral program in biomedicine at Charles University as well as the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic.

It is an extremely sad experience to pass by what used to be a busy laboratory as it immediately comes to one's mind that Prof. Herget

- really loved science and the laboratory was simply his destiny, not only a tool for earning degrees and multiple appointments; on the contrary, he would happily resign from the various positions to have more time available for his laboratory work.
- was always on hand to support all young people determined to pursue a career in science. He truly enjoyed meeting, talking to and watching his students at work in the lab.
- made every effort to make his undergraduate students not just to learn, but to understand, physiology.

Today, whenever passing by his office, one will inevitably picture him, in their minds, sitting there, smoking a pipe and giving a warm welcome to any visitor. We all will miss his invaluable advice based on thorough knowledge and longstanding experience.

The worst thing about it all is that we have lost a great friend always willing and ready to help.

To put it simply, our memories of this inspirational personality will never fade.