OBITUARY

In Memoriam Professor Otto Schweiger

Professor O. Schweiger, the outstanding and internationally as well as nationally recognized pulmonologist, died at the age of 69 yrs. From obtaining his medical degree in 1951 until his retirement, he worked at only one place, the "Korányi" National Institute of Tuberculosis and Pulmonology.

In the 1950s, as a young physician, he took part in the successful fight against tuberculosis in Hungary. He also played an important role in developing physiology to pulmonology. As the Director of the Hungarian National Institute, he established a well-equipped and internationally recognized, modern pulmonological centre. Using his knowledge and the experience he gained from assiduously following the latest publications in his field and from participating in international conferences, he made every effort to raise the professional level of Hungarian pulmonology to European standards. He was a leading professor at the Pulmonological Department of the Postgraduate Medical School, and in this position he helped to prepare generations of pulmonologists for their examinations. His scientific achievements are well-documented in his more than one hundred publications, as well as in his PhD and DSc theses.

Later, as the President of the Hungarian Respiratory Society, he promoted the international recognition of Hungarian pulmonology. It was he who initiated the Alpok-Adria-Pannon symposia, and also who made the

Hungarian National Congress of Pulmonology an international event.

His excellent international relations provided the basis for young physicians to travel and exchange experiences abroad, and to obtain research fellowships at significant pulmonological centres. Through his activity, Hungary formed a bridge between the pulmonologists of Eastern European and Western countries. He was honorary member of the Slovak, Croatian, Soviet, Bulgarian, Polish, East and West German, and Austrian Pulmonological Societies. He received several state and professional awards, and in 1992, on the occasion of his retirement, he was made Honorary President of the Hungarian Respiratory Society.

Professor O. Schweiger had done everything in his capacity to make Hungarian pulmonology well-known and internationally respected. His legacy is carried on, as indicated by the fact that in the Spring of 1995 the Hungarian Respiratory Society organized an international postgraduate European Respiratory Society (ERS) training programme; also that several Hungarian pulmonologists have been invited to give lectures at training courses in Western countries, and that in 1998 Budapest will host the 10th World Congress of Broncho-Oesophagology.

P. Bölcskei, Nürnberg, Germany.

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