

## NOTES AND NEWS

**Juraj Korpas: a Scientific and Personal Appreciation**

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Juraj Korpas is 75 years' old (or young) in April this year. As far as I know his first paper was in 1954, when he collaborated with I. Ivanco and later with Z. Tomori, in Kosice, and he began his lifelong studies on respiratory protective and defensive reflexes. His move to Martin as Head of the Department of Pathophysiology at the Comenius University, Martin, resulted in a flood of studies that established him as a world leader in our understanding of cough and its therapy.

The first climax in his scientific career was when in 1979 he published with Zoli Tomori "Cough and Other Respiratory Reflexes" (Korpas and Tomori, 1979). This not only became the Bible of those active in the field, but a major stimulant of further research. The monograph lists about 1000 references. It is not an indication of bias that most were by Juraj Korpas and his colleagues. They were the pioneers. Today the length of the list could be multiplied many-fold to include those who have followed them.

I think Juraj Korpas' major contributions to science are two-fold. He identified the 'expiration reflex': the expiratory effort that follows mechanical stimulation of the laryngeal mucosa; and he developed and established tussiphonography as a valuable tool for studying cough and its mechanisms and therapy. But in more general terms his influence has also been great. He showed the value of studying respiratory mechanisms across a wide range of species and in a wide range of conditions; and he emphasized the 'integrative' nature of basic studies, including always consideration of physiological mechanisms, pathological changes, clinical implications and therapeutic necessities.

But important research not only answers questions but also asks them. Juraj Korpas established the expiration reflex, but we still do not know its afferent and central nervous mechanisms in distinction from the cough reflex from the larynx. He established the importance of tussiphonography as a method of analysis of cough, and this pioneering work has been followed by researchers internationally; but it remains a research tool and its development and importance to the patient in the respiratory clinic has never been shown convincingly. His major research has not only been

justified in its own right, but had led to intensive discussion and studies around the world.

As a communicator, Juraj Korpas organized Martin's Days of Respiration for many years, and he attracted many distinguished international scientists to contribute to these meetings. He has taken part in and chaired many international congresses and symposia, including an International Symposium in his honour in London in 1986. He has trained and been followed by many excellent workers in the pathophysiology of respiratory reflexes. To try to name them all would be lengthy and possibly invidious, but I must mention Professor Jan Hanacek, current Head of Department, Dr. Milos Tatar in the same department, and Drs. Jan Jakus, Kamil Javorka, Gabriela Nosalova and Jurina Sadlonova in the same Medical School. Juraj Korpas' influence remains strong!

On a more personal note, I regret that, in spite of several decades of collaboration, Juraj Korpas and I have never actually done research together; probably he has been reluctant to leave his beloved Slovakia for more than a short time and to leave the department that he has cherished. Although it has been my honour to have my name on some of his research papers, my role has been to discuss plans and to correct his English rather than to contribute actively to the research.

One cannot separate the scientific achievements of Juraj Korpas from his personal life. I first met him in 1964 when I was on a family holiday in Eastern Europe, and I was immediately drawn into a combination of scientific discussions and the wonderful hospitality of Juraj Korpas and his fine wife Ethyl, who very sadly died last year. Later I came to know his family well. He is a family man who came to regard his scientific colleagues as part of his family. He is a young man: I am four months older! At our age, most scientists, if of good repute and still able to contribute, are called on to chair meetings and occasionally to contribute to discussions. It is remarkable that Juraj Korpas is still producing research papers which are adding to the literature in an important and distinguished way. Long may he continue!

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## Konferencia „glykemický index a zdravie: kvalita dôkazov“

V termíne 21.2.—23.2.2001 sa uskutočnila v Bandole vo Francúzsku medzinárodná konferencia o glykemickom indexe a nutričnej hodnote sacharidov na tému „Glykemický index a zdravie: kvalita dôkazov“ (*Glycaemic Index and Health: the Quality of the Evidence*). Usporiadateľom konferencie bol Danone Vitapole Research Centre za podpory spoločnosti Opavia — LU.

Rokovaniu predsedali prof. J. Brand Miller (University of Sidney), dr. G. Nantel (FAO, Taliansko), prof. G. Slama (Hotel Dieu, Francúzsko) a dr. V. Lang (Danone Vitapole, Francúzsko). Na konferencii sa zišlo viac ako 45 medzinárodných odborníkov na túto problematiku, aby zhrnuli výsledky výskumu o vplyve glykemického indexu na správanie, metabolizmus a zdravie človeka. Cieľom výskumu bola zároveň aplikácia výsledkov pri výbere a zložení stravy širokej verejnosti. Početné práce zaoberajúce sa presnejšou kvalifikáciou účinkov sacharidov v organizme sa prikláňajú skôr k posudzovaniu ich výsledkov podľa časovo merateľného fyziologického efektu ako podľa fyzikálno-chemického obsahu (Správa FAO/WHO 1997). Referenčnou metódou merania tohto fyziologického rozmeru je glykemický index (GI), ktorý defino-

val roku 1981 Jenkins, založený na meraní postprandiálnej glykemickej odpovede sacharidov z prijatej potraviny.

V programe konferencie bol zahrnutý aj referát o desiatich najnovších výskumoch zaoberajúcich sa priaznivým pôsobením potravín s nízkym glykemickým indexom a faktormi modifikujúcimi index potraviny alebo pokrmu.

Jednotlivým problémom sa dôkladnejšie venovali diskusie pri okrúhlym stole: *Glykemický index a správanie, sýtosť a celková výkonnosť; Úloha glykemického indexu v prevencii chorôb a Potreby výskumu*.

Zborník krátených príspevkov bude k dispozícii aj účastníkom konferencie IV. metabolické dni v Třešti u Jihlavy v Českej republike v dňoch 24.5.—26.5.2001. Správa z konferencie v Bandole bude na tomto odbornom stretnutí prezentovaná.

Správa z konferencie bude bezplatne dostupná od mája 2001 na nasledujúcich adresách: OPAVIA — LU, a.s., Oddelení pro výživu, Palác Karlín, Thámová 13, CZ-186 00 Praha 8, Czech Republic, e-mail: [ecichova@opavia.danone.com](mailto:ecichova@opavia.danone.com), alebo Danone Vitapole, Nutrition and Health Department, 15 Avenue de Galilée, 92350 Le Plessis Robinson, France, e-mail: [ilenoir@.com](mailto:ilenoir@.com).

## NOTES AND NEWS

**Ferencik M, Rovensky J, Nyulassy S: Imunológia.**

Bratislava, SAP 2001, 348 s.

Immunology is one of the most rapidly growing areas of scientific, experimental and clinical research. In the recent years, concepts in immunology have undergone and continue to undergo radical changes that also are reflected in their terminology.

The book *Immunology. Basic terms and Definitions* of the authors Prof. Ing. Miroslav Ferencik, ScD., Prof. MD Jozef Rovensky, ScD., and Assoc. Prof. MD Stefan Nyulassy, ScD., is printed in the year 2001 in second reviewed and completed edition issued by SAP Bratislava, on 348 pages (price 500 Sk). The 2nd reviewed and completed edition appearing in a short time after the first edition that was two years ago quickly sold out documents big interest for a quality book provided by the representatives of Slovak immunology. Prof. Ing. M. Ferencik, ScD., the leader of the group of authors, certainly belongs to the most productive authors in recent biomedical literature.

The high standard of the publication documents its English edition (*Dictionary of Immunology*, by M. Ferencik, J. Rovensky, V. Mat'ha) from the year 2000, second reviewed and completed edition will reappear before the end of this year (2001). The Spa-

nish edition is in press and three other editions are in preparation (Portuguese in Brazil, Hungarian and Russian).

The aim of the book is to overcome the difficulties and to provide both immunologists and nonimmunologists with basic terms encountered in contemporary immunologic literature. The correct Slovak form of the scientific terms is guaranteed by trilingual introduction of each particular term — in Slovak, English and Czech. The leader of the group of authors of the prepared book edition of the *Compendium of Pathology* (M. Zaviacik et al.: *Kompendium patológie I. a II. diel*, Bratislava, UK 2001, in press) considers the contribution of the reviewed book highly positive especially as a guide in selection of correct immunological terms.

The range of presented terms and nomenclature definitions in the book is broad enough to satisfy the needs of any biologists, biochemist or clinician who requires easy and quick reference to current immunological usage. At the same time, the book is also addressed to students, teachers, physicians and researchers in all fields of biomedicine.

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Each submitted disk must be clearly labelled with the name of the author, item title, journal title, type of equipment used to generate the disk, word processing program (including version number), and filenames used.

The file submitted on disk must be the final corrected version of the manuscript and must agree with the final accepted version of the submitted paper manuscript. The disk submitted should contain only the final version of the manuscript. Delete all other material from the disk. Please follow the general instructions on style/arrangement and, in particular, the reference style as given in "Instructions to Authors".

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