

## ANNIVERSARY



## Professor Károly LAPIS, a Hungarian pathologist, is 80

**P**ROF. KÁROLY LAPIS is an outstanding pathologist of our time. He was born on April 14, 1926 (Túrkeve, Hungary) and attended the Presbyterian Grammar School (Mezőtúr, Hungary). He started his medical studies in 1945 at the University of Kolozsvár (now Cluj) and continued from 1947 at the Budapest University. As MD he became Research Assistant at the 1<sup>st</sup> Institute of Pathology (Medical University, Budapest), later moved to Debrecen and in 1954 back to Budapest. He joined to the Onco-Pathological Research Institute (founded by prof. Kellner), qualified as pathologist in 1955 and defended his PhD thesis on „Lymphogenic propagation of tumors” in 1957. In 1963 he was appointed Professor and Chairman to the Department of Pathology (Postgraduate Medical School, Budapest), where he established a Laboratory of Electron Microscopy and conducted high level studies on ultrastructure of tumors, which resulted in a degree of DSc in 1968. That year he was appointed Professor and Director of the 1<sup>st</sup> Institute of Pathology and Experimental Cancer Research (Semmelweis University of Medicine, Budapest) where he held this position until 1993.

Under his directorship the scientific activity of the Institute and the Research Group of Molecular Pathology (within the Joint Organization of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and Semmelweis University) was concentrated on experimental tumor chemotherapy, metastasis research, hepatocarcinogenesis and human liver diseases. The diagnostic activity of the Institute increased steadily in number and quality, strongly supported by the newly equipped electron microscopy unit. In teaching he introduced the multiple choice question system to evaluate the students' knowledge and wrote a textbook of Pathology in Hungarian.

Prof. Lapis became Ordinary Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 1970 and chaired several Committees of the Academy (Committee of Pathology, still Chairman of the Scientific Committee of Medical Diagnostics). He is a Foreign Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Russia and of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Art.

Prof. Lapis established good connections to different scientific communities, which were supported by fellowships: Gordon Jakob Fellow (at the Chester Beatty Research Institute), Eleanor Roosevelt Fellow (at the Laboratory of Prof. Bernhard, Gustave Roussy Cancer Research Institute, Paris), Visiting Professor (at Duke University Medical School, Durham, USA),

Fogarty Scholar in Residence (at the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, USA), performing research on tumor metastasis. During his Residence at the NCI he organized an international symposium on tumor metastasis. In 1986 he was President of the 14<sup>th</sup> International Cancer Congress of the UICC, held in Budapest.

As an acknowledgement of his scientific activity he was elected as President of the Hungarian Cancer Society (1974–1984), President of the Liver Section, Hungarian Society of Gastroenterology (1979–1987), Vice President of the Hungarian Society of Gastroenterology (1979–1982), Vice President of the European Association for Cancer Research (1979–1985). He participated in the Editorial Boards of several scientific journals, like *Acta Morphologica Hungarica*, *Acta Pathologica*, *Microbiologica et Immunologica Scandinavica*, *Clinical and Experimental Metastasis*, *European Cancer News*, *Invasion and Metastasis*, *Laboratory and Clinical Medicine*, *Neoplasma*, *Oncology*, *Pathology Oncology Research*, *Pathology, Research and Practice*, *Ultrastructural Pathology*.

He published more than 1075 papers, 335 in foreign languages, is author or co-author of 65 book chapters and 3 books, editor or co-editor of 7 books. The honors and awards Prof. Lapis received are also numerous (Markusovszky Prize, Niveau Prize from the Publishing House of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Medaillon Edmund Krompecher, Medaillon Ignaz Semmelweis, Medaillon Joseph Baló, Medaillon Géza Hetényi, Golden signet ring from the Semmelweis University, Prize Antal Genersich, George Weber Prize, Széchenyi Prize. He is Honorary Citizen of Mezőtúr.

Prof. Lapis founded and directed an effective and successful school of pathology. Many members of this school are now chairmen of university departments, possess leading positions in several pathological units throughout the country. Six of his former co-workers became professors at various clinical departments. He always paid special attention to the postgraduate education of young members of the Institute. He was one of the chief organizers of the Austro-Hungarian Oncological Symposia, which events opened a window to Western science well before the great political changes. As Professor Emeritus he is an active participant in the scientific and social life of the Institute and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. His recent book on cancer written for the public is a great success.

Professor Károly Lapis reached this respectable anniversary in good health and excellent spiritual manner. We thank him for his life's work for the sake of pathology and oncology, and hope that he will continue his activity in favor of our community.