

## FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ACTA MICROBIOLOGICA ET IMMUNOLOGICA HUNGARICA

*Acta Microbiologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae* was first published in 1954 by “Akadémiai Kiadó”, Budapest. The publication of this periodical has been initiated by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS), as one of the scientific journals of the Academy’s Medical Section. This Journal represented in those years the only facility for Hungarian microbiologists to publish their results in a foreign language to achieve international publicity, relations, potential cooperations as well as to promote the progress of research in both basic and applied microbiology.

*Acta Microbiologica* has covered since the very beginnings all fields of medical, veterinary, agricultural and industrial bacteriology, virology, mycology, parasitology, epidemiology and partly some of basic immunology. As a quarterly of HAS *Acta Microbiologica* is published in one volume of four issues per year. The Editorial Board accepts original reports, reviews, technical leaflets, etc. Acceptance of a submitted publication depends on the opinion of one or more referee/s and the decision of the Editorial Board. During its 50 years of history the Journal has been repeatedly honoured by authors from abroad with the submission of original reports or reviews. These authors came from practically all countries of the world.

Editors of the Journal have maintained a continuous, intensive co-operation with the Hungarian Society for Microbiology (HSM). As a result there have been published abstracts or “in extenso” presentations of the different HSM conferences national as well as international. This proved to be an excellent means to join the international exchange of information.

In 1983 the name of *Acta Microbiologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae* was changed to *Acta Microbiologica Hungarica* with no significant change in its scope. From 1994 the Journal has extended its interest also to basic and clinical immunology. Accordingly its name has changed to *Acta Microbiologica et Immunologica Hungarica* (AMIH). This approach has a historical justification. In the early days of microbiological research physicians and microbiologists have made the first attempts to protect people from infectious diseases with immunological methods like vaccination

or administration of protective immune sera. At the time being a new approach is evolving called infectology: this involves the complex microbiological, immunological and epidemiological approach to the fight against infectious diseases. Recently the Editorial Board welcomes also publications on applied and basic molecular biology, biotechnology and molecular genetics.

In the past 50 years AMIH has published a total of about 2000 original papers and 2500 abstracts. Distribution of the papers according to their topics was as follows: bacteriology 39%, virology 21%, mycology 12%, parasitology 3%, immunology and interferon 18%, antibiotic research 4% and miscellaneous 3%. The different fields of microbiology were also represented in the articles and as a consequence of the rapid worldwide progress of biological sciences in the last decades the research trend in the papers were characterised by increasing interest in biotechnology, molecular biology and genetics and the clinical and practical use of the new results.

The papers published in AMIH came from 45 countries (out of them 24 European) covering all the five continents. More than 400 papers had foreign authors either first or joint. Papers of Hungarian authors came from about 150 institutions, University departments or clinics, from some 30 cities of the country. (The Editorial Board is indebted to Dr. Anna Lengyel for providing the above data.)

During its history the present Acta had survived some very difficult periods. Occasionally even its mere existence was threatened. Nonetheless it successfully arrived to its fiftieth jubilee volume. Now we may declare that AMIH had achieved its primary aim and fulfilled its original purpose. The Editorial Board and myself as the present Editor-in-Chief we express our high appreciation to all colleagues and co-workers who have contributed to the successful work and activity of our team.

We hope that after another fifty years this past period will be remembered as the first fifty years of the Journal.

On behalf of the Editorial Board

*István Nász*  
*Editor-in-Chief*