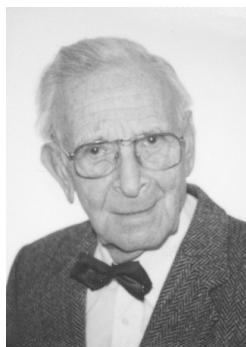


IN MEMORIAM ISTVÁN FÖLDES
(1921–2002)



Professor István Földes, 80, founding Member and Board Member of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology, Editor of *Acta Microbiologica et Immunologica Hungarica* and Scientific Adviser of the National Center for Epidemiology, Budapest, Hungary, died on September 7, 2002.

He was born in 1921 in Budapest and obtained his M.D. „*summa cum laude*” at the Medical University of Budapest in 1950. He began his scientific carrier in his *alma mater*, in the 1st Department of Pathology and Experimental Cancer Research as a medical student, and he was involved in the discovery of elastase as a young scientist in 1951. In the same year he joined to the National Institute for Hygiene, Budapest, where he got a postgraduate state scholarship. He defended his thesis and obtained his Candidate’s degree in 1954. From 1954 to 1972 he was head of the Department of Pathophysiology, National “Korányi” Institute for Tuberculosis and Pulmonology, Budapest, where he studied the effect of tuberculosis and its drugs on the central nervous system, introduced radioactive isotope methods and investigated, together with his wife, Dr. Edit Beregi, age dependent changes of different diseases. He obtained his

D.Sc. degree in 1966 and became titular professor of Semmelweis Medical University, Budapest, in 1972. From 1972 to 1981 he was director of the Microbiological Research Group of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest. As a new director he took the chance and introduced new research areas in Hungary. His group started retrovirus and interferon research, studied virus induced neoplasms and tumor immunology, and applied molecular biological methods in the field of mycobacteriophage research. He was an excellent manager and his coworkers got the chance to study in élite institutes in Hungary and abroad. Due to a reorganization of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, from 1981 the Microbiological Research Group continued its work within the National Institute for Hygiene, Budapest. After the discovery of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Professor Földes and his coworkers established the first HIV laboratory in Hungary. Although retired in 1993, Professor Földes kept working as head of the HIV Confirmatory Laboratory of the Microbiological Research Group till his death. His comprehensive knowledge, scientific activity and great leadership potential was acknowledged by several distinguished scientific societies. He was a recipient of “Frigyes Korányi”, “Manninger”, “Kesztyűs” and “Krompecher” memorial medals donated by the Frigyes Korányi Society for Tuberculosis and Pulmonology, Hungarian Society for Microbiology, Hungarian Society for Immunology and Hungarian Society for Oncology, respectively.

Professor István Földes was a warm-hearted and understanding colleague, chief and teacher. His death is a grievous loss for Hungarian microbiology and Hungarian science.

We shall keep his memory.

János Minárovits