

EDITORIAL

Authors of the papers collected in this issue of *Acta Biologica Hungarica* dedicated their publications to Professor Lajos Ferenczy on the occasion of his 70th birthday. Lajos Ferenczy, an outstanding university teacher and scientist, starting his carrier after his promotion at the Szeged University of Sciences in 1953, as a member of the Department of Plant Physiology, where he became soon a research fellow. In 1972, he moved to the Department of Microbiology of the same University as the Head of the Department, holding this position until 1997.

Besides teaching at the Biology Faculty of the University, Professor Ferenczy was an enthusiastic researcher, dealing with biology and the genetics of microorganisms, especially of yeast and filamentous fungi. His main achievement has been the discovery and successful execution of gene transfer by protoplast fusion, and he pioneered the creation transgenic fungi cells. This technique has become an important approach in the improvement of industrial microbial strains and in studies of the mode of action of antifungal substances.

Professor Ferenczy has educated a large number of teachers and researchers, many of whom have subsequently attained high positions in education and science. By virtue of his scientific achievements, he has become a well-known and respected microbiologist worldwide, and has visited, lectured at and cooperated with many laboratories outside Hungary. He has served as a representative of the Hungarian biologists in different international bodies, and is on the editorial board of a number of prestigious journals.

As a reflection of his research achievements, Professor Ferenczy has been elected a Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and has been decorated with various scientific and state awards. Hungarian biologists as well as the Editorial Board of this Journal highly respect Professor Lajos Ferenczy as an effective and creative colleague, and congratulate him most warmly on his birthday jubilee, wishing him good health and every further success in his scientific activity.

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