



CSCB Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry

Almost sixty years of various successful activities have passed since the time of establishing the branch of clinical biochemistry of the Czechoslovak Medical Society, bearing the name of J.E.Purkinje. On June 12, 1958 the Presidium of the Czechoslovak Medical Society J.E.P. approved the Association of Clinical Chemistry. Its preparatory committee (members: J.Horejsi, T.R.Niederland, K.Kacl, J.Homolka, J.Opplt, K.Masek, J.Sula, J.Hrabane) met on Sept. 9, 1958 and decided to convene the constituent meeting. This plenary session took place in the lecture hall of the 1st Institute of Medical Chemistry in Prague on Oct. 10, 1958 at 6 pm. Its scientific programme consisted of only one item: the lecture of Prof. J.Horejsi about the International Biochemical Convention in Vienna in 1958. The first working session of the Society of Clinical Biochemistry was attended by 44 participants, the biochemists from Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia. It was organised in the lecture hall of Institute of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, Brno University, on Jan. 16, 1959 at 2 pm, on the occasion of Prof. O.Wagner's 65th birthday.

The electoral plenary session took place in the lecture hall of the 1st Institute of Medical Chemistry in Prague on March 20, 1959 at 5 pm. Prof. J. Horejsi was elected the president. Four scientific working sessions were regularly organised each year and the numbers of participants were continually growing. The working session in December 1959 was already attended by 107 participants. The Biochemical Convention, held in Prague, Aug. 29 – Sept. 9, 1960, was participated by the Association of Clinical Chemistry.

The Association of Clinical Chemistry and the Slovak branch of the Association of Clinical Chemistry organised the first conference of clinical chemistry in Novy Smokovec, Slovakia, Nov. 13 – 14, 1962. There were presented 14 lectures on enzymology, polarography, electrophoresis, and a very important lecture given by Masek on the economy and development laboratories in hospitals. The number of the members of the Association had grown by that year up to 227. The committee also proposed affiliation to International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC).

The electoral plenary session was held again in the lecture hall of the 1st Institute of Medical Chemistry, Prague, on April 24, 1969. Since this date there were established Czech and Slovak Associations of Clinical Biochemistry due to the new federal organisation of Czechoslovakia. The new elected president was Prof. J. Homolka.

The Congress of Clinical Biochemistry organised in Prague, 1971, was a very important step towards the international cooperation. It was designated as Congressus biochimiae clinicae Pragensis cum participatione internationali and it was held on Sept. 14 – 18, 1971. The Congress was attended by 500 participants, 200 from abroad. The most important guest was the chairman of the IFCC, Prof. M.Rubin from the United States. The most important scientific event. of the 70's was the 2nd European Congress of Clinical Chemistry, organised in Prague, Oct. 3 – 8, 1976. The Congress was attended by 1 500 participants from 30 countries. There were presented 270 lectures and among the participants there was the chairman of the IFCC, Prof. J.Frei from Switzerland.

Due to the political and social changes in Czech Republic, the Communist committee resigned on Jan. 11, 1990. The new committee was elected on March 27, 1990, chaired by Prof. V. Palicka who enforced the 14th European Congress of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine Euromedlab 2001 to be held in Prague, May 26 – 31, 2001. This Congress was attended by 4 070 participants from 83 countries and 1 106 posters were presented.

Prof. T. Zima was elected the president of the Society at its meeting in Kladno, April 19, 2006. Since 2014 Prof. J. Racek holds the chair.

The concise history of the Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry has been published in the book 50 let České společnosti klinické biochemie (Praha, 2008, by Prof. R.Prusa et. al.).



Picture 1. Prof. J. Horejsi and Czech biochemists in Japan, 1967



Picture 2. Prof. V. Palicka (left), Prof. T. Zima (second from the left) and Prof. I. Watson in Prague, 2013